MICHIGAN'S LGBTQ NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1993

BTL 25th ANNIVERSARY

Between THE Lines

Cirque Alfonse Comes to Ann Arbor

PAGE 24

Man Charged for Shooting Deaths of 3 LGBTQ People in Detroit

PAGE 14

BTL Photo: Andrew Cohen

MOTOR CITY PRIDE BREAKS RECORDS

PRIDESOURCE.COM

JUNE 13, 2019 | VOL. 2724 | FREE

Ellie's severe asthma attacks were triggered by secondhand smoke at work. She and her partner have to live with its effects forever. If you or someone you know wants free help to quit smoking, call **1-800-QUIT-NOW.**

#CDCTips

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CDC.gov/tips

30

34

26

8

22

BTL
BetweenTheLines
Cirque Alfonse Comes to Ann Arbor
PAGE 24
Man Charged for Shooting Deaths of 3 LGBTQ People in Detroit
PAGE 14
MOTOR CITY PRIDE BREAKS RECORDS
JUNE 13, 2019 | VOL. 2724 | ISSUE

Cover: Motor City Pride Breaks Records

Our rate cards are available online. All material appearing in Between The Lines is protected by federal copyright law and may not be reproduced in whole or part without the permission of the publishers. Between The Lines is supported by many fine advertisers, but we cannot accept responsibility for claims made by our advertisers, nor can we accept responsibility for materials provided by advertisers or their agents.

Copyright 2019

NEWS

4 History Wheel

6 Rainbow Detroit

8 Ford GLOBE 25th Anniversary Dinner Makes History in Bringing Together Southeast Michigan LGBTQ and Allied Business Professionals

14 Man Charged for Shooting Deaths of 3 LGBTQ People in Detroit

15 LGBTQ-Owned Eli Tea Bar to Host Charity Pop-Up to Benefit Ruth Ellis Center June 17

30 History Comes Alive in Historical Exhibit in Detroit

30 Grosse Pointe Hosts 3rd Annual Pride March 22

OPINION

12 Parting Glances

12 Fighting for Our Rights: 50 Years Post Stonewall

19 Creep of the Week: Trump Administration

MARRIAGE

18 Marvel and DC Unite

21 Another Case Heading to Supreme Court Seeking Religious Exeption

LIFE

22 Being Elton John

24 The Bearded Circus in Ann Arbor

32 Q&A: Lev Raphael's 'State University of Murder' Shines Satirical Light on Higher Education and Abuse of Authority

33 PBS Film 'The Lavender Scare' Showcases US Govt.'s Efforts to Rid Federal Workforce of LGBTQ Employees

34 Happenings

37 Puzzle & Crossword

38 9 Seemingly Cheaper Travel 'Hacks' That Could Be Robbing You Blind

COOL CITIES: LANSING

26 2019 Michigan Pride Festival, Parade and Rally on June 15

VOL. 2724 • JUNE 13, 2019 • ISSUE 1115

PRIDE SOURCE MEDIA GROUP
20222 Farmington Rd., Livonia, Michigan 48152
Phone 734.293.7200

PUBLISHERS
Susan Horowitz & Jan Stevenson

EDITORIAL

Editor in Chief
Susan Horowitz, 734.293.7200 x 102
susanhorowitz@pridesource.com

Entertainment Editor
Chris Azzopardi, 734.293.7200 x 106
chrisazzopardi@pridesource.com

Feature News Editor
Kate Opalewski, 734.293.7200 x 108
kate@pridesource.com

News & Feature Editor
Eve Kucharski, 734.293.7200 x 105
eve@pridesource.com

News & Feature Writers
Emell Derra Adolphus, Michelle Brown, Ellen Knoppow, Jason Michael, Drew Howard, Jonathan Thurston

CREATIVE

Webmaster & MIS Director
Kevin Bryant, kevinbryant@pridesource.com

Columnists
Charles Alexander, Michelle E. Brown, Mikey Rox, D'Anne Witkowski, Gwendolyn Ann Smith

Cartoonists
Paul Berg

Contributing Photographers
Andrew Potter, Andrew Cohen

ADVERTISING & SALES

Director of Sales
Jan Stevenson, 734.293.7200 x 101
jan@pridesource.com

Sales Representatives
Ann Cox, 734.293.7200 x 103
anncox@pridesource.com

National Advertising Representative
Rivendell Media, 212.242.6863

MEMBER OF
Michigan Press Assoication
National LGBT Media Association
National Gay & Lesbian Chamber
Q Syndicate

"Between The Lines Newspaper"

Follow us @YourBTL

Email your op-eds to editor@pridesource.com

Sign up online to receive our E-Digest

FLASHING BACK TO THE PAST:

THE '00S – 2008

MICHIGAN'S LGBTQ NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1993

BTL 25th ANNIVERSARY

Between THE Lines

February - Stryker Given 'Creating Change' Award: Jon Stryker was honored in February at the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Creating Change Conference when the group presented him with the first ever Creating Change Award. Stryker founded and funded the Arcus Foundation in Kalamazoo, and at that point had provided $40 million in grants to LGBTQ groups and $36 million to protecting the great apes. He had also spent thousands of dollars to fund campaigns to unseat anti-gay incumbents in Michigan.

April - Cancellation Causes Chaos at Aquinas: A scheduled visit to speak at Aquinas College turned into a campus uproar over philosopher and gay rights advocate John Corvino after his event was cancelled by Aquinas President C. Edward Balog on the day of the event. While many students were excited about the dialog, Aquinas administration was not. They felt it was necessary to present Catholic views before or after Corvino's speech to expel any idea that what he said was in agreement with their teaching. Potential presenters were said to be unavailable that day so the event was cancelled. Supportive Aquinas students and local LGBT groups in Grand Rapids instead invited Corvino to speak at the Fountain Street Church.

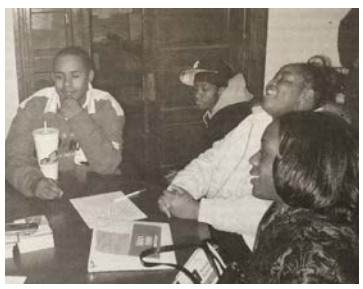
May - Justice for All?: A decision was made in May that shook the LGBT community in Michigan. The Michigan Supreme Court ruled 5-2 that the language of the amendment that defined marriage in the state as between one man and one woman precluded unmarried couples from receiving domestic partnership health care benefits. The ACLU of Michigan, at the time, began discussions with national LGBT organizations about a possible attempt to federally challenge Michigan's marriage amendment. In the meantime, some employers created short-term, unstable solutions like adopting alternative language that helped families retain their health care coverage.

September – Transgender Leader Receives Prestigious Award: In September, Rachel Crandall became one of only two people – and the only transgender person – to receive the Liberty Bell Award, honoring her work as co-founder and executive director of Transgender Michigan. The award has been given out since 1986 to local citizens who have excelled in providing service to the community. Jeff Montgomery received the award in 2006.

June - Sign of Pride and Support: A PFLAG tri-cities billboard was put up near the Garfield road exit on US-10 to promote understanding of the LGBT community. The message "Someone you know and love is gay," suggested that everyone knows someone who is gay, whether they realize it or not. The group's purpose in advertising was to let both parents and their LGBT children know that there are local people who are ready to help them understand what it all can mean.

HIV/AIDS- MICH. HAPPENINGS 2008

McCoy Infuses Spirituality Into the Fight Against HIV/AIDS: Longtime activist the Rev. Dr. Renee McCoy became the new director of HIV/AIDS Programs at the City of Detroit Department of Health and Wellness Promotion. During a time when over 40 percent of HIV-positive people in Detroit were out of care, McCoy used her background as a pastor to outreach through the churches in Detroit about HIV/AIDS.



Detroit Teens Battle Rising HIV-Infection Rate with New Play: A concerned and eager troupe of Detroit high school students embarked on a mission to teach their peers the facts about HIV and AIDS. To do that, they staged an innovative, inspirational and important new play they believed could help save other young people's lives. "Caution: This is How It's Caught" opened in March at Detroit's Matrix Theatre. The script, written by teenagers for teenagers, was crafted with the assistance of experts from St. John Health and the Detroit Health Department. Pictured are Detroit teenagers Remington Devereaux, Floritta Wilson, Chynna Penson and Falana Smart.

Tapping Into Generosity: In June, Howard Tapper, co-owner of Tapper's Diamonds and Fine Jewelry in West Bloomfield, presented two checks totaling $133,410.94 to the Midwest AIDS Prevention Project and the international charity YouthAIDS.

Historic Fundraiser at The Ringwald: History was made in September when actors from Southeast Michigan's first-ever production of Larry Kramer's "The Normal Heart" reunited with an all-star cast of local thespians and politician's at Ferndale's Ringwald Theatre to raise money for Steppin' Out's 18th annual AIDS Walk Detroit. Former Ferndale Mayor Craig Covey and former Royal Oak Mayor James Ellison both participated in the show.

AIDS Walk Michigan Raises $175,000: A crashing stock market did not deter more than 2,500 people from walking in Detroit, Ann Arbor, Bay City, Lansing, Flint and Grand Rapids. The funds raised were important for many nonprofits that were having trouble securing grants.

MAPP, MAF Merged: Two of the state's largest HIV/AIDS organizations - the Midwest AIDS Prevention Project and the Michigan AIDS Fund - announced in November a historic merger

to ensure the future of HIV/AIDS services in Michigan. The new organization is called the Michigan AIDS Coalition.

HARC Fundraiser a Success Despite Tough Times: In spite of tough economic times, more than 150 people in the region donated special wines to HARC's (HIV/AIDS Resource Center) annual fundraiser, helping the organization raise over $21,000 during the fifth annual Ann Arbor Wine Cellar.

JOIN US FOR A NIGHT
FILLED WITH FILM-SHORTS,
FOOD, AND FUN!

LGBTQ FILM NIGHT
SATURDAY, JUNE 15TH
5-7:30PM

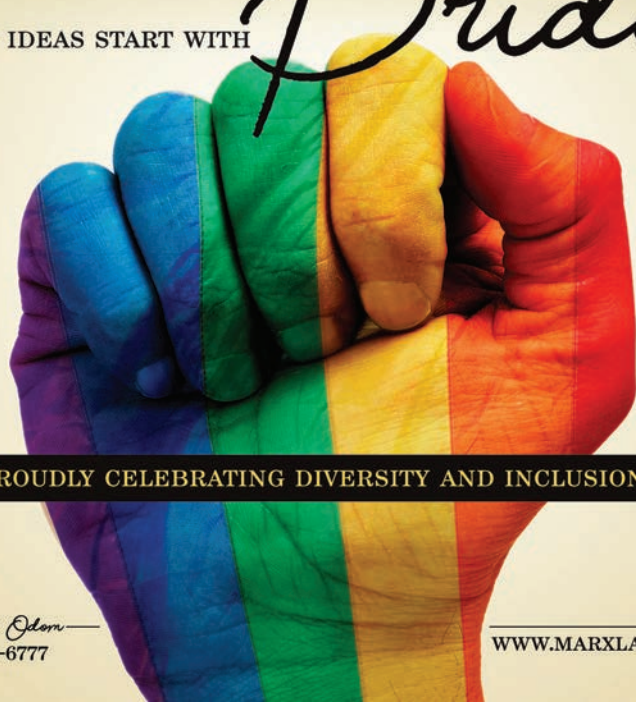
A diverse, inclusive Christian church serving the
LQBTQ and ally community since 1972.

MCC Detroit
Include. Inspire. Influence

Weekly Sunday Worship @ 11:30 am.
205 N. Main St.
Clawson, MI 48017
www.mccdetroit.org
(248) 399-7741

MARX LAYNE
MARKETING, PUBLIC RELATIONS & DIGITAL MEDIA

GREAT IDEAS START WITH *Pride*



PROUDLY CELEBRATING DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

Michael Odom
(248)855-6777

WWW.MARXLAYNE.COM

PATTERSON
DOG
&
CAT
HOSPITAL
1844-2019
Celebrating 175 Years in Detroit

Glynes D. Graham, DVM
Doctor of Veterinary Medicine

3800 Grand River, Detroit, MI 48208-2866
tel: 313.832.7282 *fax:* 313.832.4990

www.pattersondogandcat.com

Find us on: facebook

All You Need is Love -
Let Me Help You Find the Home of Your Dreams

Proud Sponsor of BTL's 2018 Ultimate Wedding and Anniversary Expo

Real Estate One

Lynn L. Stange
Realtor Associate

70 West Long Lake Rd., Troy MI 48098
248.561.6967 | LLStange@aol.com

Full Service Residential Real Estate
Local Neighborhood Specialist Representing Buyers & Sellers

BTL Photos: Andrew Cohen

RAINBOW DETROIT

Motor City Pride 2019 Celebrates Stonewall 50 in Style

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

Detroit looked markedly more colorful last weekend as it bustled with thousands of people clad in all manner of rainbow flags on their way to attend Motor City Pride 2019 in Hart Plaza. Host to over 50,000, the event featured performances by drag greats like Sabin and Ongina, showcased local artists like Tunde Olaniran and brought in nationally known musical acts like Greyson Chance. Vendor attendance was high, too. For the first time in the event's history, Dave Wait, the chair of the festival's planning committee, said that vendor booths were booked solid a month in advance.

"Participation and interest in the festival just continues to grow each year as more people come out to support equality and to recognize each other," he said. "And to come together to make sure that we are working toward full equality with the passage of Elliott-Larsen and other initiatives out in the state and national level."

Attendee Alison Phelps said that the size of Motor City Pride was what motivated her to visit this year.

"I've been to a couple of different Prides, but I've never been to this one; it's the biggest one in Michigan and I wanted to go [because of that]," she said. "And I'm also the GSA adviser in Oakland and the GSA adviser for the school that I teach at. I wanted to be able to tell them about what goes on at Pride."

When asked why she felt Pride was important to her she said it's Pride's ability to draw people out of their shells.

"I think it's important because a lot of times people are sort of isolated; they are only LGBTQ+ person that they know and that can be very depressing and cause a lot of problems. So, just the fact that people can see that there are other people out there like them and meet them is cool," she said, adding that its political origins are valuable, too. "I also think that the 50th anniversary of Stonewall is important to remember and that it was a protest and that it's still going on and that we still have things to do politically speaking."

And the weekend certainly had proof of the ongoing struggle to secure rights in the LGBTQ community. On Saturday, a group of roughly a 10 neo-Nazi protestors made an appearance in an attempt to disrupt the day's celebrations and a separate group of religious protestors appeared on Sunday. Wait said that despite the appearance of these groups, they failed in their goal to tear down the celebrations of the LGBTQ community.

"It was 10 people with their hate speech who were just overshadowed by the 50,000 who came out to support equality and each other," he said. "The protestors, they failed on so many counts. They failed to get into the festival, they failed to stop our participants, they failed to frighten us — people came out on Sunday to the parade because of our support for one another. So, they failed on all levels."

For some people in attendance, this visible outward support and celebration of the progress made in the 50th year after the Stonewall Riots was made even more special as it was their first time attending Pride in general.

"I'm the 'L' in LGBTQ and this is my very first pride," Courtney W. said. "Basically, we just wanted to hang out and have fun with our people."

Leah Bordo said she went to Pride because of her friend Kyle.

"He came out last month and I'm super proud of him and Pride is something that I've always been interested in going to and the fact that I had someone to share it with this year is really exciting," she said.

Bordo added that until equality exists for everyone in the LGBTQ community, she views Pride as a valuable way to call attention to and drive positive change surrounding LGBTQ issues.

"Equality doesn't exist for everyone yet, and I'd like to try and support that in any way I can and to move that forward at Pride," she said. "And the more numbers we have, the safer we are and the more likely we're able to do something actively in our community."

Beyond LGBTQ-specific nonprofits, Pride had many allied vendors in attendance in support of the LGBTQ community. In one booth were members of the Michigan State University's College of Osteopathic Medicine. Handing out pamphlets of LGBTQ-friendly doctors at the MSU booth was Abby Cook who emphasized the value of physicians who recognize that equality matters in medicine.

"We just wanted to show the LGBT community that there are future positions that are looking out for them and we're not going to turn someone away because they're gay or treat them differently," Cook said. "We also think that it's really important for the LGBT community to know that there are physicians that think of them as equals but also for future doctors to get involved with this sort of thing, to give them a broader perspective on things."

Cook added that short of full curriculum-wide changes to include LGBTQ-specific medicine, it's worthwhile to use events like Motor City Pride to raise awareness about these issues.

Pridegoer Jerome Fulton agreed.

"I'm a proud, gay man and I came out to celebrate amongst my other fellow queer brothers and sisters. It's a great time to do it, we've been persecuted a lot lately so any reason to celebrate our Pride [is important]," Fulton said. "It's important because not too long ago it was illegal to be gay, so just to celebrate the fact that we can be out, loud and proud is a true achievement."

Grace Bacon is a U.S. Army veteran and an example of someone who has lived to see the

See **Pride**, continued on p. 16

BTL Photos: Andrew Cohen

View the Online Gallery
www.pridesource.com

Top: Allan Gilmour, right, was presented with the inaugural Allan D. Gilmour Award for Outstanding Leadership in Inclusion from the LGBT Regional Chamber of Commerce. Pictured here with the Chamber president Kevin Heard and Vice President Jan Stevenson. BTL Photo: Andrew Potter

Right: Bill Peters presented awards to the founders of Ford GLOBE. Cindy Clardy, Rob Matras, Alice McKeage, Peg Collins and Suzanne Wait. With Brian Abel. Photo by Mike Odom.

Below: Tito's Vodka was a silver sponsor of the dinner and provided this ice sculpture. Photo Andrew Potter

Ford GLOBE 25th Anniversary Makes History, Connects SE Mich. LGBTQ and Allied Business Professionals

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

Making History

Thursday, June 6, marked a historic moment not only for the local Michigan LGBTQ community but for the business community, too, as hundreds of prominent leaders from both groups joined to celebrate Ford GLOBE's 25th anniversary. Ford GLOBE is Ford Motor Company's LGBTQ employee resource group designed to unite, encourage networking among and generally service Ford's LGBTQ employees. The event was hosted in partnership with the Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce that is dedicated to promoting and connecting LGBTQ business people across Southeast Michigan to allied partnerships in order to create a more diverse, dynamic and innovative business community.

And the dinner was certainly not a one-off, it served as the inaugural event in a continuing annual cycle dedicated to fostering those relationships. The event's significance was

Wade Davis, left, gave an inspirational keynote address. The former NFL star shared his journey from a closeted professional athlete to an out-and-proud speaker, writer and trainer. He's with Mike Odom of Marx Layne Marketing and a board member of the LGBT Chamber. BTL Photo: Andrew Potter

perhaps best summarized by Noel Baril, an openly gay human resources executive for Henry Ford Health System — a dinner silver sponsor.

"I'd really like to start by congratulating Ford GLOBE on its birthday and thank the organization for the many contributions that it's made over the years," Baril said.

He went on to describe the tone of the period in the 1990s when Ford GLOBE came to be, as well as its relevance today.

"[The world] was a really different place for the LGBTQ community. AIDS was rampant, anti-gay sentiment was rampant, marriage for individuals at that time was a quiet commitment that was really often made with little to no recognition, certainly not from the government and too often none from our families and very likely not from our employers," Baril said. "Marriage equality seemed as if it was an impossible dream, but organizations like GLOBE and Pride and others that have come along since then raised their voices — I know because I was on the other side, the employer side, listening — demanding things like domestic partnership benefits and non-discrimination protections and they were heard."

Honoring an LGBTQ Legend

Shortly after Baril's address, Jan Stevenson took the stage. As Between The Lines co-publisher, former Affirmations LGBTQ center executive director and as vice president of the LGBT Chamber, her direct involvement with the Southeast Michigan LGBTQ community has given her a deep understanding of the need for groups that advocate not only for LGBTQ rights within the corporate hierarchy of individual companies but also within the greater business communities across the U.S. She said that in honor of the event's goals she was excited to celebrate the person in Southeast Michigan with perhaps the single greatest influence on LGBTQ equality within the corporate world, Allan D. Gilmour.

"It's my honor to give the first Allan D. Gilmour award to Allan Gilmour. For many in this room, Allan Gilmour needs no introduction, but he has so many spheres of influence, that even if you think you know Allan you may not have a full appreciation of the extent of the positive impacts on the lives of so many people he's touched," she said. "Ford recruited him from the University of Michigan and for the next 38 years he skyrocketed up the Ford corporate ladder, ultimately earning the position of vice chairman of all of Ford Motor Company."

Stevenson added that though Gilmour retired in 1994, his influential work within the LGBTQ community was merely beginning, as it was at that time that he publicly came out as gay — a bold move as at that point he was the highest-ranking executive in the U.S. to do so. Despite his retirement, Gilmour began to take an active involvement on the boards of various significant local organizations like DOW, DTE Energy, The HOPE Fund, Whirlpool and others. All the while, Gilmour involved himself philanthropically in LGBTQ-affirming causes, securing — among other notable achievements — enough money to construct the current physical space for Affirmations.

"These are just a few of the highlights of a distinguished career as a corporate leader at Ford, an influential philanthropist, a university president and as a respected voice in numerous boardrooms, advocating for the inclusion of LGBT people in the fabric of our society and our workplaces," she said. "He is a beloved leader for his grace, compassion, high intelligence, effectiveness and personal warmth."

Gilmour took the stage and expressed his deep gratitude for the recognition of his work.

"I am honored and excited to receive this award, especially because it is a doubleheader, the award itself, and then the fact that it is a continuing award, an annual award, coming from the Chamber of Commerce," he said. "Special thanks to the board of the Chamber for selecting me after developing the award and special congratulations to Ford GLOBE on its 25 years of inclusion and service. The people of GLOBE have made a difference in those 25 years."

He emphasized in his speech the value of diversity and inclusion and the strides that can be made if businesses take care to ensure that employees from all backgrounds and sexual orientations can feel comfortable at work. He finished his remarks with a four-point call to action for the business leaders present in the room.

"First, work with the government to improve its performance. Our elected leaders should lead, they set the rules, the tone, for

See **Anniversary Dinner**, continued on p. 10

WHAT'S THE T ON THE BIG C

A Study on the Experiences of LGBTQ People with Cancer

Join Us

Join us in a group to help us learn about the cancer care experiences of LGBTQ cancer survivors.

Process

- Share your thoughts in a one-time focus group discussion lasting 2 hours.
- **A free meal will be provided at the meeting**

To Participate, You Must

- Be at least 21 years old
- Identify as LGBTQ
- Have been diagnosed with cancer (any type)
- Self-identify as African American or White

As a thank you for your time you will receive a $50 gift card

If you would like to participate in this study, please

Visit: www.LGBTQcancerstudy.org
Call: (313)288-8122
E-mail: info@LGBTQcancerstudy.org

Confidentiality:

All of your personal information will be kept confidential. Your name will never appear in written reports from this study. Study Conducted by Dr. Hayley Thompson, PhD from Wayne State University in partnership with LGBT Detroit and Michigan State University.

This project is funded by a Eugene Washington Community Engagement Award from the Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute

LGBT DETROIT · Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute, Wayne State University · Michigan State University School of Social Work · Wayne State University

► Anniversary Dinner
Continued from p. 9

much of what society does. Second, reach out to understand the backgrounds and experiences of your own colleagues. Make them welcome and an integral part of your organization. It may take special efforts with LGBT people because we cannot recognize them by color, nationality or gender," he said. "Third, work within your organizations to be sure the right policies and practices are in place and are followed. Fourth, give your own time … to helping LGBT organizations and those that support them, our allies."

Keynote Messages

It was after Gilmour accepted his award that keynote speaker Wade Davis delivered his speech. The former NFL player and openly gay diversity consultant's career was introduced by Ford GLOBE President Bill Peters.

"[He is a] thought leader, writer, public speaker, educator on gender, race and orientation," Peters said. "[An] LGBT inclusion consultant and currently consults for numerous sports leagues on issues of intersections of sexism, racism and homophobia. Wade creates league-wide inclusive leadership strategies, leads inclusion training session for coaches and players and launches [national initiatives.]"

Davis' work has also been utilized by prominently known businesses across the U.S. like Netflix, Google and Viacom, he's worked with organizations like Planned Parenthood and he is currently an adjunct professor at NYU and Rutgers University. Davis began his speech by drawing attention to the need for a spirit of inclusivity to be present among all generations and businesses and by debunking myths about the LGBTQ community. Some myths include thinking that the younger generation is free of homophobia, that seemingly conservative companies like Ford cannot be great places to work for LGBTQ people and that communities of color are more homophobic than others.

"Homophobia is not located in one community or another. It's individual because what happens when you create a myth and you say communities of color are more homophobic than white communities, kids of color run away from home because they don't believe their parents will embrace them," Davis said. "As leaders, you have to create the conditions so that employees can bring themselves to work."

He finished his remarks with a challenge designed to spur more thought on inclusivity by asking the community members present to educate themselves on the experiences of their employees like those who belong to the transgender community.

"... What does it mean to be trans? What does it mean to be gender non-conforming? What does it mean to be bisexual?" he asked. "You've got to talk to them about issues of consent. You've got to have a lot of conversations."

1. From top: Bill Peters, president of Ford GLOBE, and Kevin Heard, president of the Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce, welcomed the over 400 guests to the dinner. BTL photos: Andrew Potter

2. Brian Abel of Channel 7 Action News emceed the Ford GLOBE 25th Anniversary Dinner, co-hosted by the Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce.

3. Over 400 people attended the Ford GLOBE 25th Anniversary celebration and Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber dinner, including representatives from more than 20 Detroit area companies and organizations.

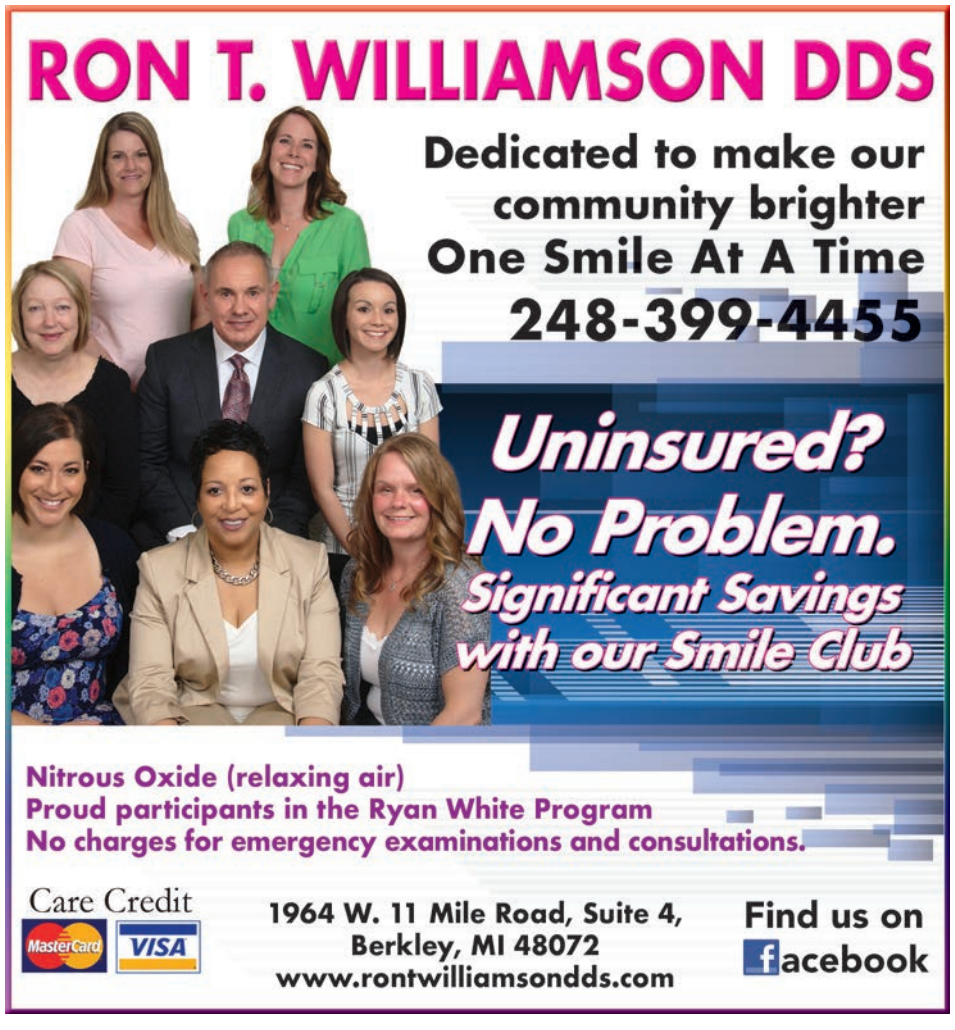
4. Henry Grix, middle, is a partner at Dickinson Wright Law, a bronze sponsor. His husband Howard Israel on left. Photo Mike Odom.

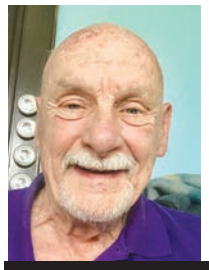
5. Noel Baril from Henry Ford Health System, a dinner silver sponsor thanks Gilmour for his leadership.

EMBRACING DIVERSITY
SUPPORTING EQUITY
PROMOTING INCLUSION
Community
MENTAL HEALTH
CLINTON • EATON • INGHAM
DIVERSITY ADVISORY COUNCIL
We Support and Embrace Michigan Pride

FLINT
PRIDE
2019
JUNE 22, 2-8 P.M. IN RIVERBANK PARK
Sponsored by Wellness Services Inc.
810.232.0888
311 E. Court St.
wellnessaids.org
Wellness
Services

Real Estate One
Don Chisholm, REALTOR®
(248) 425-4366
DChisholm@RealEstateOne.com
www.DonChisholmRealtor.com
NAGLREP
MEMBER
Your Personal Advocate
• Friendly, Professional Service
• Empowering You Through Education
• Serving the Woodward Corridor
and Beyond!
(248) 425-4366
DonChisholmRealtor@gmail.com
www.DonChisholmRealtor.com
Real Estate One
26236 Woodward Ave.
Royal Oak, MI 48067
EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY
REALTOR
Michigan's Largest Real Estate Company


RON T. WILLIAMSON DDS
Dedicated to make our community brighter One Smile At A Time
248-399-4455
Uninsured?
No Problem.
Significant Savings with our Smile Club
Nitrous Oxide (relaxing air)
Proud participants in the Ryan White Program
No charges for emergency examinations and consultations.
Care Credit
MasterCard
VISA
1964 W. 11 Mile Road, Suite 4,
Berkley, MI 48072
www.rontwilliamsondds.com
Find us on
facebook



Parting Glances

BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

Washington Goes We'what?

Editor's Note: Contributor Charles Alexander fell ill last monthand was unable to provide his usual weekly Parting Glances Column. This selection was chosen in honor of Pride month and Stonewall's 50th Anniversary. Everyone at Between The Lines wishes Alexander a speedy recovery.

Gays and lesbians have been welcomed to the White House during the Clinton and the Obama administrations. BTL co-publishers Jan Stevenson and Susan Horowitz attended one such gathering and shook hands with President Obama.

I had asked Jan and Susan not to wash their hands until I could shake the President's hand by proxy. Unfortunately, on their return flight – joining the Mile High Club of Democratic Celebration – they forgot. (I herewith publicly forgive them.)

The first "gay" guest at the White House dropped in under the President Grover Cleveland administration 129 years ago. Cleveland was also a Democrat, and his guest was a Zuni Native American named We'wha. "She" was in reality a third-gender, cross-dressing, spiritual advisor to her people.

We'wha was in Washington in 1896 taking a performance part in a program presented at the city's National Theater. She also demonstrated basket weaving, of which she was highly skilled, at the Smithsonian Museum.

A sponsor for We'wha was anthropologist Matilda Coxe Stevenson – no relation to BTL's Jan – who met with We'wha several times over a period of many years, recording intimate impressions. We'wha "performs masculine religious and judicial functions at the same time that she performs feminine duties, tending to laundry and the garden."

Stevenson, whose interest mellowed gradually into a happy friendship, lived with We'wha for six months without realizing that she was actually physically male.

"We'wha was the most intelligent person in the pueblo," writes Stevenson. "Strong character made his word law among Zuni men and women, both of whom he spiritually led. Though his wrath was dreaded by all, he was very loved by children with whom he was very kind."

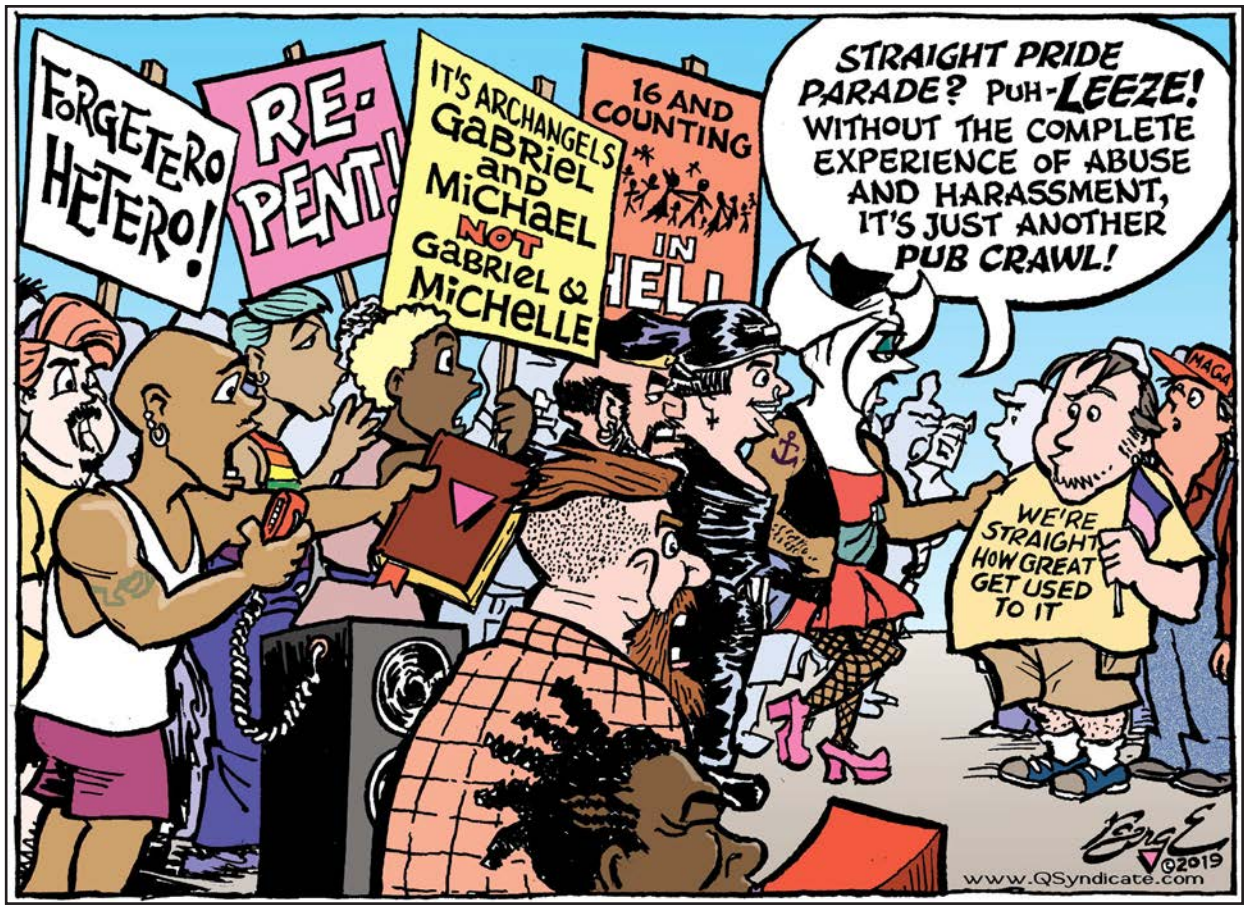
We'wha's own community believed he/she was "two spirited." Anthropologists call this intersex status a berdache. Two-spirited persons – precursors of today's transgender "M" to "Fs" – were found in 130 Native American tribes and were often married to other males.

We'wha made a big hit in Washington, D.C., although few knew anything about her tribal function. The press called her – over 6-feet tall with a commanding gentle presence – a "Zuni Princess." Her basket weaving and pottery were admired, but because she was a Native American, she was patronized.

We'wha, in turn, was shocked to learn that some women in Washington society had false teeth and wore braided "rats" in their hair.

Looking back, what has been done to Native Americans is a sordid affair. Their land has been taken. Their food source

See **next page**


FORGETERO HETERO!
RE-PENT!
IT'S ARCHANGELS GABRIEL and MICHAEL NOT GABRIEL & MICHELLE
16 AND COUNTING
IN
STRAIGHT PRIDE PARADE? PUH-LEEZE! WITHOUT THE COMPLETE EXPERIENCE OF ABUSE AND HARASSMENT, IT'S JUST ANOTHER PUB CRAWL!
MAGA
WE'RE STRAIGHT HOW GREAT GET USED TO IT
©2019
www.QSyndicate.com

Viewpoint

Fighting for Our Rights 50 Years Post Stonewall

BY JAY KAPLAN

June 28, 1969. With no civil rights protections available for LGBTQ people and rampant harassment and brutality by law enforcement against our community and LGBTQ establishments, a group of brave men and women — including two transgender women of color, Sylvia Rivera and Marsha P. Johnson — stood up to the New City Police Department and determined that they were not going to take it anymore.

We have come a long way since June 1969 and it's important to take into account the critical battles that have since been fought and won for LGBTQ rights — legal victories that would not be possible without the incredible courage shown by members of our community at the Stonewall Inn in Greenwich Village. In 1969, a person could be fired from a job, denied an education and be turned away from businesses open to the public, merely on the suspicion of being LGBTQ.

Today, 21 states have laws that specifically protect LGBTQ people from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. Unfortunately, Michigan continues to not be among them. However, clearly support for LGBTQ people has grown over the past five decades and today in Michigan more than cities and townships have local human rights ordinances that prohibit LGBTQ discrimination.

In May 2018, the Michigan Civil Rights Commission issued an interpretative statement that said that LGBTQ discrimination is a form of sex discrimination, in violation of our Michigan civil rights laws, based on gender stereotyping. This now makes it possible for LGBTQ people who have suffered discrimination to file a complaint with the Michigan Department of Civil Rights, which is governed by the MCRC. This interpretation is consistent with federal court case law, where we have won significant LGBTQ gains.

In 1996, the Supreme Court of the United States in Romer v. Evans for the first time acknowledged that LGBTQ people had constitutionally protected rights, including the right to be protected from the government when it purposely targets us for discriminatory practices and policies. Another hard-fought victory occurred in 2003 where SCOTUS struck down laws the criminalized same-sex sodomy. Such laws had been used to justify discrimination against LGBTQ people, defining us solely by our presumed sexual behaviors. In Lawrence v. Texas, SCOTUS held that the constitutional right of privacy regarding sexual intimacy between two consenting adults extends to LGBTQ people, ending the practice of criminalizing our community. A decade later SCOTUS struck down part of the federal Defense of Marriage Act, which denied federal recognition of legal marriage between same-sex couples in

► Viewpoint
Continued from p. 12

Windsor v. U.S. This was the first time that the Court spoke about the dignity of LGBTQ relationships and the harm that is done to our families, including our children, when our relationships are denied recognition and legal protections. This decision set the template challenging laws like Michigan's that denied LGBTQ people the right to marry one another, culminating in the 2015 Obergefell v. Hodges decision, which held that the fundamental constitutional right to marry and enjoy the benefits of marriage includes same-sex couples.

And yet despite these many victories, many challenges remain. Opponents of LGBTQ rights have found allies in the current Trump Administration in their quest to roll back gains that have been made for LGBTQ equality. Three cases involving LGBTQ rights will be heard by SCOTUS this Fall. One of those cases is ours — involving Aimee Stephens, a transgender woman who was fired from her job at a Detroit area funeral home for disclosing that she is transgender.

In a reversal from the Obama Administration, the Trump Department of Justice is arguing that LGBTQ people are not protected under sex discrimination laws. Because of the DOJ's reversal, several federal agencies have rescinded discrimination protections for our community, and the Trump Administration along with Senate Leader Mitch McConnell are attempting to remake our courts with judges who are not only conservative on social justice issues but have issued decisions that are anti-LGBTQ rights. This Administration has launched a fully fledged attack against transgender people, with among other things, a trans-military ban and HUD rules that permit federally funded homeless shelters to turn away transgender people, in the name of "religion." The Administration has also introduced a medical "conscience" rule that permits medical providers to refuse to provide medical care to transgender people. In addition, it has issued a proposed rule that states that the Affordable Care Act does not protect LGBTQ people from discrimination in accessing medical care and health insurance coverage.

Along with these political, legal and policy challenges (many the consequence of the 2016 Presidential Election), the murders of trans women of color continue to occur at alarming rates. Nine murders have been reported this year so far nationwide, and that number is most likely undercounted. With all the progress our community has achieved, Michigan's Hate Crimes law still does not acknowledge crimes of violence motivated by animus towards LGBTQ people.

So as we celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion and recognize the contributions and significant roles that transgender people played in this demonstration, let's recommit ourselves to fighting for our rights and dignity and refuse to allow our opponents to roll back the clock.

Jay Kaplan is a staff attorney with the ACLU of Michigan since 2001. He can be reached at jkaplan@aclumich.org

► Parting Glances
Continued from p. 12

destroyed by hunters (60 million buffalo). Their religion and customs demeaned. They have been subjected to imported diseases, killing 96 percent of their population.

(According to Latter Day Saints theology, based on Prophet Joseph Smith, Jr.'s "Book of Mormon" translated Golden Plates, Native Americans are descendants of Israelite tribes who came to America by boat. Following his resurrection, Mormons believe, Jesus appeared to these Holy Land exiles, preached, baptized and sanctioned a new-found worship.)

Since 1987, hundreds of LGBT Native Americans gather yearly in the Pacific Northwest for celebrating an International Two-Spirit Gathering. In the tradition of We'wha, participants meet to pray, dance, share sweat lodge initiations, honor their sexuality and traditions and mourn AIDS losses that have further so decimated their communities.

Today there is also a strong Gay American Indian Coalition. Co-Founder Randy Burns observes of LGBT Native American Spirituality, "We are perhaps a little more spiritual than our straight native counterparts because that is the traditional role we played." A time-honored role, indeed.

In spite of the White Man's singular mean-spiritedness.

Charles Alexander is prolific both as a BTL columnist (700-plus columns) and as a well-known LGBT community artist (1000 Facebook images). He is a Spirit of Detroit Award recipient and an Affirmations LGBT CENTER Jan Stevenson awardee. Connect with him at Charles@pridesource.com.

Creep Of The Week

Trump Administration

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

Under President Obama U.S. embassies were allowed to officially raise a rainbow flag during June. Under Trump they are not. Rainbow flags aren't banned from embassy premises, but they are conspicuously absent from the official flag pole.

June is Pride Month, which means anti-LGBTQ folks are losing their goddamn minds.

I attended Motor City Pride in Detroit with my wife, our son and my wife's 69-year-old aunt. It was a family affair. There were rainbows galore, men holding hands with men, women holding hands with women, transgender and genderqueer people holding hands with men or women or with whomever they wanted because it's pride and love is love, damn it.

Oh, and there were Nazis, complete with swastikas and guns because open carry is legal in Michigan. Yes, that's right. In Michigan, an LGBTQ person has no right to be free from discrimination, but a Nazi has a right to carry guns out in the open. As a state, our priorities are pretty fucked up.

Thankfully, my family didn't encounter the Nazis. We were too busy at the kids' tent learning about fossils from a man n a lab coat named Dr. Dinosaur. My son got to hold fossilized dinosaur poop. Definitely the highlight for him.

The Detroit Police Department got a lot of criticism for "escorting" the Nazis, though in their defense their goal was to keep the Nazis and the Pride celebrants separate to prevent violence, which they achieved. Ideally, the police would have told the Nazis to GTFO, but that's not their job because of freedom of speech.

Though I'd like to point out, that marching with guns and screaming that LGBTQ people should die, is not free speech, it's an incitement to violence, which is not protected by the first amendment and should not be protected by the police or any other governmental entity. But that's not where we are as a society yet.

The Nazis reportedly destroyed a rainbow flag while trying to disrupt Motor City Pride. Thankfully, there were more where that came from.

Also thankfully, the Trump Administration is protecting embassies worldwide from Nazis... Wait, I'm sorry. That's my mistake. Let's try this again: The Trump Administration is protecting embassies worldwide from rainbow flags.

Under President Obama U.S. embassies were allowed to officially raise a rainbow flag during June. Under Trump they are not. Rainbow flags aren't banned from embassy premises, but they are conspicuously absent from the official flag pole. And that absence is definitely intended to send a message.

And anti-LGBTQ Trump supporters and self-proclaimed Christians are getting that message loud and clear.

Franklin Graham thanked Trump and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo "for making the decision not to fly the gay flag over our embassies during June in recognition of gay pride month. That is the right decision. The only flag that should fly over our embassies is the flag of the United States of America. The gay pride flag is offensive to Christians and millions of people of other faiths, not only in this country but around the world. The U.S. flag represents our nation — everyone — regardless of race, religion or sexual orientation."

The rainbow flag isn't offensive to Christians, but it is offensive for people who use their religion as a weapon against people they don't like. So I can see that while Graham would be offended, many LGBTQ and allied people of faith are not offended by a rainbow flag. They are offended by bigotry though.

"Most people don't know that these State Department folks are defying the president of the United States and flying the rainbow flag,"

Right-wing pastor E.W. Jackson railed against anyone at the State Department who dare display a Pride flag, calling the rainbow flag "an accursed thing."

He continued, "The rainbow was given to us by God as a sign that he would not destroy the earth by water again, and you're going to appropriate that as pride in homosexuality? Are you kidding me? Talk about blasphemy. Talk about arrogance. Talk about boldness. Talk about shaking your fist in God's face."

If the music at Pride festivals around the world is any indication, there's a lot more shaking than fists. But I get Jackson's point. Then again, it's nice to see that he's so worried about floods. I'm sure his sermons on global warming are lit.

If only the Christian right got as worked up over Nazis as they do over LGBTQ people. Imagine a world where Graham said, "Nazis are offensive to Christians and millions of people of other faiths" or where E.W. Jackson said, "Talk about shaking your fist in God's face," and he was talking about hateful Nazis, not about peaceful LGBTQ people.

Until then, we'll keep shaking our fists, and our asses and refusing to apologize for who we are.

Linda Lom Team
AT TRILLIUM

Linda Helps People Make Good Decisions.

Come find out why Linda Lombardini was voted Washtenaw County's Favorite Realtor.

Thrice.

734-302-3600
www.LindaLom.com
323 Braun Ct., Ann Arbor
Linda@LindaLom.com
TRILLIUM REAL ESTATE

eXp REALTY

Amber Steciuk
Contact Me!
ambersteciuk.exprealty.com
Check me out on Facebook at Amber Steciuk - Realtor

As part of an experienced Real Estate team in South East Michigan, I am excited to utilize my passion for relationships, community, and Metro Detroit to help you on one of the biggest adventures of your life!

License # 416343

P: 248-561-8245 E: AMBER.STECIUK@DEIGHTONGROUP.COM

Vita Nova Massage

Paul Mattson, LMT
Massage Therapist, Owner/Operator

- Therapeutic Massage
- Foot Reflexology
- Thai Massage
- Craniosacral Therapy
- Trigger Point Therapy
- Reiki

Mon, Wed, Thu: 10AM - 8PM
Tue: 10AM - 4PM
Fri-Sat: 10AM - 6PM
Sunday: Closed

23023 Orchard Lake Rd., Farmington, MI 48336
248-270-2686
VitaNovaMassage7@gmail.com

Shop The Rainbow

BTL Between the Lines

There are hundreds of businesses that advertise in BTL and **welcome everyone.**

Invest in equality and work with businesses that support Michigan's LGBTQ community!

RAINBOW

Pictured left to right are victims Alunte Davis, 21; Paris Cameron, 20; and Timothy Blancher, 20.

Man Charged for Shooting Deaths of 3 LGBTQ People in Detroit

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

Devon Robinson of Detroit was charged last Thursday with three counts of first-degree murder in the shooting deaths of 21-year-old Alunte Davis, 20-year-old Timothy Blancher and 20-year-old Paris Cameron. Davis and Blancher were gay and Paris was a trans woman. Police believe their sexual orientation and gender identity were factors in their murders. They were all shot and killed while together at a home on Detroit's east side May 25. Two others were shot but survived.

"The alleged actions of this defendant are disturbing on so many levels, but the fact that this happened during Pride Month adds salt into the wound," said Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy. "We must remain ever vigilant in our fight to eradicate hate in Wayne County and beyond."

Special Prosecutor Jaimie Powell Horowitz of the Fair Michigan Justice Project handled the case.

"This case illustrates the mortal danger faced by members of Detroit's LGBTQ community, including transgender women of color," said Alanna Maguire, Fair Michigan's president. "The LGBTQ community knows that the Fair Michigan Justice Project, the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office and the Detroit Police Department stand ready to aggressively prosecute these brutal crimes."

Robinson, just 18 himself, was charged with two counts of assault with intent to murder and five counts of use of a firearm in connection with a felony in addition to the murders. He was arraigned Friday. A probable cause conference is scheduled for June 21 and a preliminary examination will take place June 28.

Meanwhile, funerals for all three victims took place over the weekend and on Monday. Jey'nce Poindexter Mizrahi, Equality Michigan's transgender victims advocate, knew all three of the victims. She said she considered Davis to be her grandchild.

"He had a lot of personality," she said. "He was really funny, really easygoing.

"They all were definitely well received in the community," Poindexter Mizrahi continued. "Alunte was really supportive of Paris and her transition. Whenever you saw one of them you saw the other. Literally. They were very close. I met Tim sometime last year. He was really funny and charismatic. He loved to talk stuff, you know, shoot the dozens."

Poindexter Mizrahi said the metro Detroit community has suffered a season of great loss in recent weeks.

"It's not the middle-aged people," she said. "It's not the elders. It's the young people. Before life really started for any of them it was taken away. It was discarded so frivolously."

Jey'nce Poindexter Mizrahi, Equality Michigan's transgender victims advocate, knew all three of the victims. She is seen here during Pride flag raising ceremony. Photo: Tih Penfil

LGBTQ-Owned Eli Tea Bar to Host Charity Pop-Up to Benefit Ruth Ellis Center June 17

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

Serving both tea and cocktails at a pop-up event at first might not seem like the most obvious pairing, but for Elias Majid, the owner of Eli Tea Bar, it's ideal. The event is a fundraiser dedicated to raising money for the Ruth Ellis Center in Detroit and will be held at The Skip on Monday, June 17, from 6 p.m. to midnight.

The Ruth Ellis Center provides short and long-term residential safe spaces and support services for runaway, homeless and at-risk LGBTQ youth. Majid said that when deciding which organization to support via this fundraiser the decision to pick Ruth Ellis Center was an easy one.

"We chose the Ruth Ellis Center because of their longstanding commitment for helping people in need and particularly helping LGBT people in need," he said. "Eli Tea, we're definitely not able to be involved on a daily basis but we can at least fundraise for them to take in and help out homeless youth whether it's through their group programs or through their counseling services that they offer, too."

Majid said that he wants to go beyond what many businesses do during Pride month and instead of just talking about supporting the LGBTQ community, to show an active level of support. At this event, 100 percent of the profits will go toward the Center.

The Skip is located at 225 Gratiot Ave. in Detroit. For more information visit eliteabar.com.

ELI TEA BAR BAR

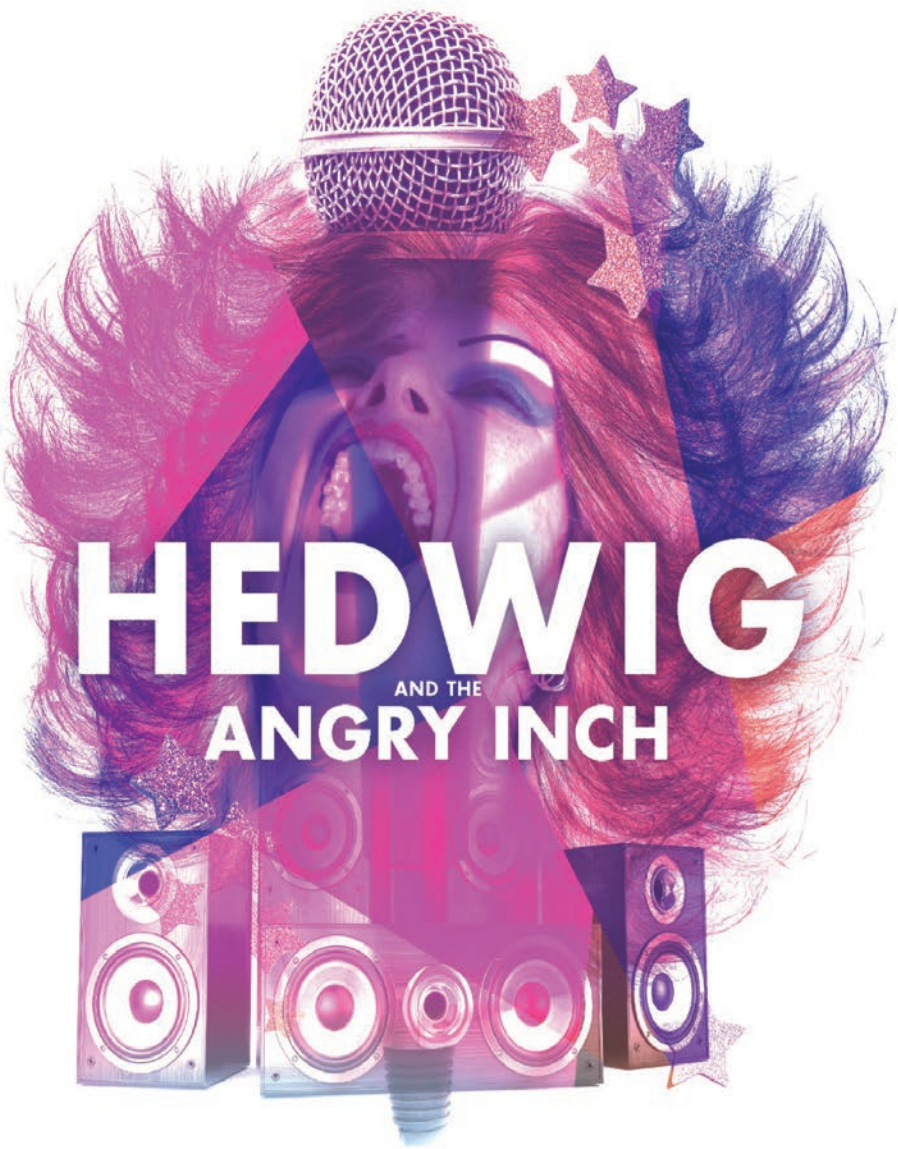
There are hundreds of businesses that advertise in BTL and **welcome everyone**.

Invest in equality and work with businesses that support Michigan's LGBTQ community!

LOVE Wins

Between The Lines™

Sept. 12-15, 19-21



Actors' Theatre

For tickets www.atgr.org.

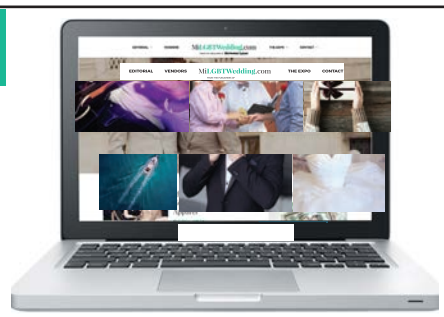
Michigan's Definitive LGBTQ-Friendly Wedding & Anniversary Guide

MiLGBTWedding.com

A PROJECT OF Between The Lines™

To learn more contact donelle@pridesource.com

Call 734-293-7200



Save The Date
Sunday, October 13 • Noon - 4 pm.

BTL 9th Annual LGBTQ Wedding & Anniversary Expo @ The Henry in Dearborn

► Motor City Pride

Continued from p. 6

scope of that achievement. She was wearing a shirt that said: "Transgender Veteran: I fought for your right to hate me" and said she loves attending Pride because of what it symbolizes.

"I'm a part of the community, especially the trans community. I came out in 1976 and in 1977 I put Crossroads together. At the present time, all of the transgender groups in Michigan are kind of indirectly my responsibility," she said, adding that being in a non-judgmental space is important. "It's being with other people like myself, mixing with people, seeing everybody, it's a good feeling; this is where I belong. And it's a nice feeling to know that nobody is going to get on your case."

Pride Chair Wait said that hearing stories like the ones at Pride this year and from years before is what motivates him to keep putting on the event annually.

"It moves me when I hear their stories and am grateful to be able to participate on this team that provides a welcoming space for people to

View the Online Gallery
www.pridesource.com

Photo: Jamie Feldman

Huntington Woods Commission Bans Conversion Therapy

The Huntington Woods City Commission voted unanimously at its June 4 meeting to enact an ordinance banning the practice of conversion therapy within the city limits. Violators will be guilty of a municipal civil infraction. Huntington Woods is now the first and only city in Michigan to ban the practice. The ordinance was introduced by City Commissioner Joe Rozell.

"Eighteen states and two territories already ban the practice of conversion therapy," City Commissioner Rozell said. "Unfortunately, the Republican leadership in our state legislature won't allow a statewide ban in Michigan to be put to a vote in the house and senate. That means we as local leaders must act to protect the public health, safety and welfare of our citizens and ban the practice locally."

Huntington Woods has a history of progressive leadership, being one of the first cities to enact a human rights ordinance.

"Conversion therapy is a hateful and fundamentally flawed practice that is counter to everything this city stands for," Rozell said.

Numerous professional organizations such as the American Medical Association, American Counseling Association, National Association of Social Workers, American Psychological Association and the American Psychiatric Association all deem the practice as harmful.

"The American Psychological Association has concluded that conversion therapy leads to substance abuse, social withdrawal, decreased self-esteem and suicidal thoughts by young people exposed to this therapy. I believe that exposing children to these outcomes is dangerous, especially in light of the fact that no evidence exists that the practice is beneficial," Rozell said.

By city charter, the ordinance will take legal effect 20 days after adoption.

"I'm very proud of my colleagues on the commission for supporting
this ordinance," Rozell said.

A Must-See Exhibition

Isabelle DE BORCHGRAVE

FASHIONING ART FROM PAPER

6.15.19 – 9.8.19

Flint Institute of Arts
1120 E. Kearsley St., Flint
810.234.1695
flintarts.org

Huntington | FREE SATURDAYS

The exhibition has been organized by Dixon Gallery and Gardens, Society of the Four Arts, Oklahoma City Museum of Art, Frick Art and Historical Center, Baker Museum, Flint Institute of Arts, and SCAD FASH Museum of Fashion and Film.

Major funding was provided by FedEx.

Isabelle de Borchgrave
Belgian, born 1946
Maria-Maddalena d'Austria (detail), 2007
Mixed media
74 x 47½ x 48 inches
Collection of the artist

Marvel and DC Unite

Captain Marvel Proposes to Wonder Woman at Motor City Comic-Con

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

Marvel and DC Comics crossovers have happened before but Captain Marvel and Wonder Woman getting engaged is certainly new. However, that's exactly what happened at Motor City Comic-Con in May when Ashley VanSickle, in full Captain Marvel gear, got down on one knee and proposed to her Wonder Woman, Deanna Mascia.

"Part of me almost doesn't even remember what happened. I was so excited but nervous that I was going to stumble over my words and I had so many butterflies in my stomach and I remember just smiling the whole time," VanSickle said. "I was almost in tears at one point trying to get this out and it was just like an out-of-body experience because I couldn't believe it. I was finally able to do this and I was just so happy and it just felt like the best, most perfect moment."

But despite her nervousness, "it all came naturally" VanSickle said. It was moments before Mascia gave a joyful "yes."

"And she cried and she just kept nodding and she couldn't get any words out yet," VanSickle said. "I just remember that butterfly-in-my-stomach excitement."

Planning the Perfect Engagement

Ever since VanSickle, 26, and Mascia, 25, began dating a year ago, the Columbus, Ohio, couple has been inseparable. Part of their close bond, VanSickle said, is attributed to their mutual love of comic books. That's why when VanSickle, who had purchased an engagement ring in February, saw the opportunity to take Mascia to Motor City Comic-Con, she realized it would be the perfect place to propose.

"So, when I found out when we were able to get off work I surprised her with tickets for her birthday, which was in April, and so I knew then that this was going to happen, this was how I wanted to do it," VanSickle said. "About maybe a month or two knowing for sure I was going to do it at Comic-Con ... I got ahold of Susan [Onysko] who did our photos, it was just set in stone; I knew that this was gonna work."

Onysko is an Ohio photographer currently in the process of creating a project called "Cosplay 50: The United States of Cosplay," in which she travels across the country capturing special moments in similar events like Motor City Comic-Con. Though Mascia was aware that VanSickle had been in contact with Onysko the day before Comic-Con to capture

See **Proposal**, continued on p. 20

Ashley VanSickle, in full Captain Marvel gear, got down on one knee and proposed to her Wonder Woman, Deanna Mascia. Photo: Susan Onysko

Snethkamp
CHRYSLER • DODGE • JEEP • RAM

2019 Jeep Wrangler
$299 PER MONTH LEASE/ 24 MONTHS/10,000 MILES PER YEAR
Plus tax with employee price. Includes all applicable rebates. $999 due at signing based on A or 1 tier credit.

2019 Ram 1500
$299 PER MONTH LEASE/ 24 MONTHS/10,000 MILES PER YEAR
Plus tax with employee price. Includes all applicable rebates. $999 due at signing based on A or 1 tier credit.

At Snethkamp We Share Your Pride.
CALL 313-868-3300
Ask for Alex Chernov or Mike Carter

Proud Sponsor of the 2018 Ultimate LGBT Wedding and Anniversary Expo
achernov@snethkampcjd.com www.billsnethkamp.net 16400 Woodward Ave. Highland Park, MI 48203

Located in the heart of Old Mission Peninsula's rolling vineyards and cherry orchards, The Peninsula Room offers affordable casual elegance and features an indoor fireplace, outside fire pit and stone patio. Perennial gardens and sunsets over West Bay help create a lifetime of memories. Award-winning Chef Paul Olson and a professional staff that anticipates your every need ensures that you will have a great experience. Ceremonies and receptions from 50 to 150 guests.

THE PENINSULA ROOM
Events Director Barbara Olson
231.944.6984
Historic Old Mission Peninsula
Traverse City, Michigan
peninsularoom.com

Andiamo

AN INTIMATE
Wedding to Remember

At Andiamo, we have exquisite banquet facilities that are perfect for hosting a beautiful, private event. We can host an intimate Wedding for parties of up to 200 guests. Ask to see our Intimate Wedding Package or we can customize a plan to ft your budget.

MENTION THIS AD AND RECEIVE 10% OFF YOUR WEDDING PARTY IN DEARBORN OR BLOOMFIELD TWP.*

PLATED DINNER STARTING AT JUST $29.95 PER PERSON!

*For weddings booked in 2019 or 2020 by July 12th, 2019. Cannot be combined with any other offer or promotion.

BLOOMFIELD
248-865-9300

DEARBORN
313-359-3300

ANDIAMOITALIA.COM

LET YOUR LOVE
SHINE BRIGHT.

Miner's Den
JEWELERS

BRIDAL & ENGAGEMENT
IN-HOUSE CUSTOM DESIGN
EXPERT JEWELRY REPAIR
WATCH BATTERIES
ESTATE JEWELRY

WWW.MINERSDEN.COM
(248) 585-6950

► Proposal

Continued from p. 18

the both of them in full cosplay — or "costume play" of their favorite heroes — she didn't know that the two had been emailing back and forth for months to plan the day.

"I had originally thought I wanted to do it in the main exhibit area of Comic-Con around everybody and their costumes. ... I was kind of scoping it out like, 'Where would be the best spot in front of a bunch of comics?' But once Saturday came around it was just so busy and I didn't want it to feel rushed and it wasn't feeling right," VanSickle said. "So I had Susan's cellphone number and I texted her earlier that day and was like, 'Hey, listen, change of plans. Instead of you doing our after-proposal photos, would you be able to capture the whole moment?' She said, 'Oh my gosh, absolutely.' She said that no one had ever asked her to do that before and that she would be honored to do it."

The two agreed to an appointment time of 3 p.m. and for the rest of the day VanSickle tried to contain her excitement while keeping the surprise engagement a secret. A half hour before the specified time, VanSickle told Mascia she had a surprise for her. When the two got into the studio Onysko was able to capture every aspect of the couple's special moment.

A Brand-New Adventure

When asked about next steps regarding wedding plans, the fiances plan on keeping a long engagement of a year or two while they save for the ceremony of their dreams. They will, however, in true comic fan fashion, bring an element of the superheroes that brought them so close together into their ceremony.

"We don't have a location but we do kind of want to keep the superhero theme," VanSickle said. "I don't think we want a big everybody wears costumes [event]. We want a traditional wedding but maybe our colors [will] be our superhero colors and incorporate superheroes somehow into a wedding cake so we already thought of that."

VanSickle said that before all of that happens, though, they both are excited to start the next phase of their lives together. She said she's most excited about growing together, starting with a big move in June.

"I have my own apartment, she moved in with me, but now we're moving into our place and we're going to be making plans for our future together and working together on that is very exciting," she said. "And I'm very excited for pictures. I love the pictures and so I'm excited to do all of our engagement photos, and we already have ideas of what we would like to do and I'm excited to have fun with it."

The BTL 9th Annual LGBT Wedding & Anniversary Expo takes place Sunday, Oct. 13 at The Henry in Dearborn. Learn more at MiLGBTWeddingExpo.com.

Another Case Heading to Supreme Court Seeking Religious Exemption

BY LISA KEEN

The U.S. Supreme Court will soon get another chance to consider whether businesses can claim religious motivations for refusing service to LGBTQ people.

The case will come from the Washington State Supreme Court that ruled last week a business cannot claim a religious exemption from a state law prohibiting discrimination in public accommodations based on sexual orientation.

The Alliance Defending Freedom, a group that has been pushing for such exemptions, said immediately that it would appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The case, Washington v. Arlene's Flowers, has already been to the U.S. Supreme Court once. In June 2018, the U.S. Supreme Court vacated the state supreme court's initial ruling on the issue, also against the religious exemption. But the U.S. Supreme Court said last year that the state court should reconsider its decision "in light of" the Supreme Court's decision in Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado.

Robert Ingersoll, left, and Curt Freed were refused service by the owner of Arlene's Flowers in Richland, Washington, for their 2013 wedding. Photo: Missy Moo Studio

In Masterpiece Cakeshop, the Supreme Court did not say a baker had a right to refuse to sell a cake to a same-sex couple by citing his religious beliefs. It said the Colorado Civil Rights Commission had demonstrated "clear and impermissible hostility toward the sincere religious beliefs" of the baker.

In its ruling June 6, the Washington Supreme Court said it reconsidered the case and reviewed "substantial new briefing" on the issue and found that the courts which deliberated on the issue "did not act with religious animus" when they ruled a florist violated a state law by refusing to sell flowers to a gay couple.

The Washington case involves Barronelle Stuzman, the owner of a flower shop known as "Arlene's Flowers" in Richland, Washington. Stuzman refused to sell flowers to a gay couple – Robert Ingersoll and Curt Freed. Both the state and the couple sued Stuzman, saying she violated the state public accommodations law. The lawsuits were consolidated.

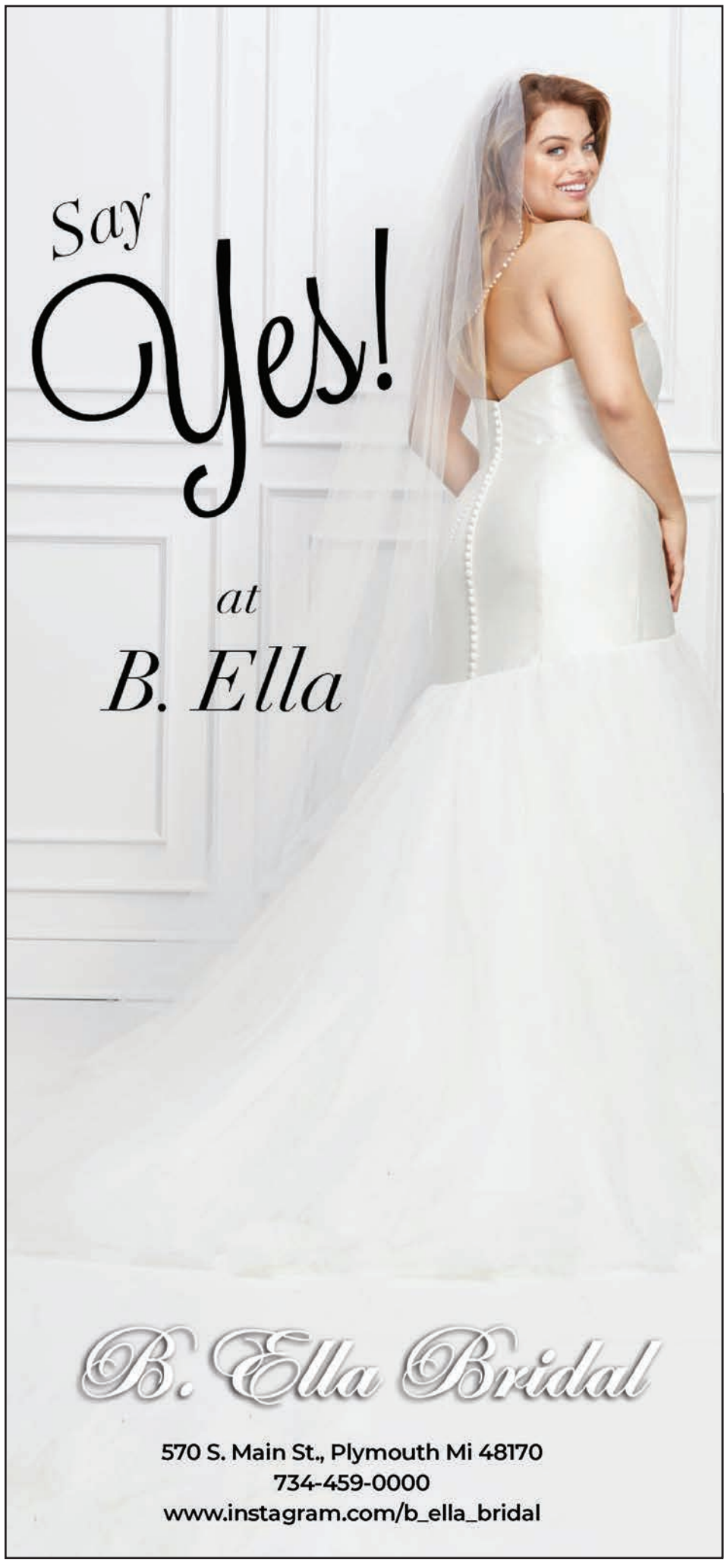
Stuzman, who identifies as a Southern Baptist, told the couple she could not provide flowers for their wedding because of her "relationship to Jesus Christ." The state court noted that she also defended her refusal by pointing to her denomination's position that marriage can be between only one man and one woman. She said she had sold flowers to gay customers but had a policy of "don't take same-sex marriages" because providing flowers to such weddings constituted an endorsement of marriage for same-sex couples.

"However," noted the Washington Supreme Court, "Stuzman acknowledged that selling flowers for an atheistic or Muslim wedding would not be tantamount to endorsing those systems of belief."

In a unanimous decision, the state supreme court rejected all of Stuzman's arguments, including arguments that requiring she obey the state non-discrimination law violates her U.S. Constitutional First Amendment rights to free exercise of religion, free speech and freedom of association.

The U.S. Supreme Court could announce any day now whether it intends to hear an appeal pressed by another group, the Texas-based First Liberty Institute, on behalf of a baker in Oregon who refused to sell a cake to a same-sex couple. That case, Klein v. Oregon, has been on the justices' conference list for since February but the court has yet to say whether it will take the appeal.

In March of this year, the U.S. Supreme Court declined to hear another appeal on the public accommodations issue from the Alliance Defending Freedom. That case, Aloha Bed & Breakfast v. Cervelli, involved the owner of a bed and breakfast in Hawaii who refused to accommodate a same-sex couple. There was no indication of why the court did not take the case.



BEING ELTON JOHN

Impersonator Kenny Metcalf on What it's Like to Bring a Legend to Life

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

Down to the very last rhinestone on a perfectly recreated jacket, when Kenny Metcalf and The Early Years Band is on stage audiences swear they're being serenaded by Elton John himself. Having performed Elton John hits across the country to sold-out shows and earning the endorsements of Mark Cuban, Ryan Seacrest and John's original producer and lead guitarist Caleb Quaye, the California native has made a name for himself as the best Elton John impersonator in the business.

He attributes that success to a variety of things, but attention to detail is certainly front and center. Now, in the middle of Pride season on Saturday, June 15, Metcalf and the band will make their way to The Emerald Theatre in Mt. Clemens to play the hits of the legendary LGBTQ icon. BTL caught up with Metcalf via phone in advance of the show to learn more about his process of turning into John, how he got his start and what it takes to successfully imitate a musical great.

Elton John is undeniably a musical icon, but what was it that made you fall in love with his music and decide to dedicate a tribute act?

I started playing drums at age 6 and in high school one day a guy walked into the drama room, he was a junior classman, and started playing "Benny and the Jets" and every girl went around that piano and started singing with him. I looked at my best friend and I said, "I've never had that effect on a girl playing drums." Because you couldn't serenade a girl over a drum set, you just can't. So, my mom had just bought a piano and I went home and taught myself to play "Benny and the Jets." And I kept going at it, and by the time I was out of high school I had a band. I ended up getting married in 1980 and I put the band aside. I was still playing — always a musician — but I was raising my family.

What made you get into the tribute scene?

I got sick 14 years ago. My immune system crashed and it took me to death's door in about a year and three-quarter's time and they had no cure for the disease — it was an autoimmune thing. I was bleeding all over my body and my wife took me to the hospital the day I was going to die and I had a miracle happen, honest truth. As they were rolling me down the hallway my wife wasn't willing to let me go yet and she said, "You're not leaving me yet." And the doctor said that is where the turnaround happened in my spirit. And everything they started to do started to help me because nothing my doctors did before would help. While I was recovering 10 years ago, a friend of mine walked into my house and he said, "Remember the band The Fab Four?" I said "yeah" and he goes, "Well, tribute bands like them at their level of expertise, they're playing the same kind of venues you played in the '80s when you toured with Stryper" — I was a keyboardist for that heavy metal band. He said, "You've always kind of sounded like Elton. Why don't you consider it? And let's put a show together, it'll get you out of bed."

How did you go about recording some of Elton's songs and which one did you pick?

I have a full-blown recording studio in my house and that night I sat down at the keyboard and I recorded the song "Goodbye Yellow Brick Road" and I sang all the vocals and I played the bass parts, the drum parts on the keyboard. It sounded just like the album. So when my wife got home she said, "Is that you or is that Elton?" Honestly, I said, God if I do this, I want to be the best at it in the world, I don't want to do this half-assed. That was just an honest conversation, me and God, and I actually said those things, and I meant it. So, I set out to do it and just worked and worked at it and 14 months later we played our first show to 4,000 people standing in the front and it was said there was like 40,000 people at the venue because it was a beach thing. When I finished that show I was in bed for two weeks because I couldn't get out of bed. I was so wiped out, my immune system, so it was a gradual process of healing.

> *I recorded the song "Goodbye Yellow Brick Road" and I sang all the vocals and I played the bass parts, the drum parts on the keyboard. It sounded just like the album. So when my wife got home she said, "Is that you or is that Elton?" Honestly, I said, God if I do this, I want to be the best at it in the world, I don't want to do this half-assed.*

Your band plays Elton's hits from the '70s and early '80s. Why only that section of his discography?

I sound like he did when he was 27 years old and that was the music that I loved the most before his voice changed. That was the music that turned me on all the way through "Yellow Brick Road" up through "Captain Fantastic." And we do some of the stuff in the '80s of his, but I'm the early years of Elton.

What goes into being the perfect tribute band? How do you prepare and get it right every night?

I studied Elton's voice and just started practicing and working at it and working at the material, and it's still an ongoing learning process. We follow the format that The Fab Four did. They don't break character. There's three different basic forms of tribute: there's the ones that'll go into a bar or something and will only play one band's music, but they don't look the part, they don't dress the part. The next level is, the guys that play it note for note and they sing and sound like them but they don't dress like them and the third is the level that I'm at, that's where it's a full-blown play. We walk out in costume, play it note for note, sound like the album and that's the key to being the tribute on the top.

And as far as detail goes, you're really meticulous. You make all of your costumes as authentic as possible and I heard that your glasses are exact replicas of Elton John's, too.

I met one of the guys – Elton has two or three different people that made his frames for him – but the one man that I met was Ray Winston. And Ray Winston, he has 300 or 400 different shapes that he made for Elton and he saw me and he said, "You're the only one that I've ever seen who does Elton justice, I want to show you something." And he opens up all these briefcases that he has and he says, "Whatever you want, pick something." I actually have three pairs of Elton's glasses.

Elton John is not only a musical icon but a massive influence in the LGBTQ community, both as a member of it and philanthropically. How has it been portraying someone who is so beloved by the LGBTQ community?

The LGBT community has been great to us. We've played different Pride events and we love it. It's just awesome and I'm straight, I've been married for years, but it's like, so what? What is there not to love about people? He's one of my heroes and he's their hero so let me entertain you, let me put some smiles on some faces today, and that's what we try to do when we walk out on stage. That's one of the greatest gifts that I was given back from almost dying.

And I'm sure you know, but Elton's gotten an even bigger spotlight recently with the release of the "Rocketman" movie. How did you feel about Taron Egerton's performance?

I haven't gotten to see the movie yet! But I've seen the trailers and I think it's great. We're gonna throw the whole band together and go out to see it but we'll probably end up catching it while we're on the road (laughs), because I've easily got 50 shows in front of me this summer and making the movie is helping us get even more.

Do you think you'll watch the movie with a more discerning eye than the average viewer?

Well, they didn't record the songs the way they were recorded on the album, so I already know that they took liberties there, and that's fine. And Elton didn't use his own music, which I would have preferred actually if they had Taron just lip-sync to it, but Elton wanted him to do it and he wanted to do it and that's fine. It's musical theater, that's just what he did, he put a musical on and it's on film and of course, I'm looking forward to it!

Editor's Note: This interview has been edited for length and clarity.

Find out more about Metcalf's upcoming show on Saturday, June 15, at 7:30 p.m. at The Emerald Theatre online at theemeraldtheatre.com. Tickets start at $25.

PAT BENATAR
NEIL GIRALDO
40TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR
JULY 10
5-TIME GRAMMY WINNER
DIONNE WARWICK
LIVE IN CONCERT
OCTOBER 6
RuPaul's DRAG RACE
WERQ THE WORLD
OCTOBER 22
SOUND BOARD
MotorCity CASINO · HOTEL
ticketmaster
SOUNDBOARDDETROIT.COM
MDHHS
If you bet more than you can afford to lose, you've got a problem. Call 1-800-270-7117 for free, confidential help.
MotorCity Casino Hotel and MotorCity Casino Hotel design are trademarks of Detroit Entertainment, L.L.C. ©2019 Detroit Entertainment, L.L.C. All rights reserved.

The Bearded Circus in Ann Arbor

Q&A Cirque Alfonse Founder Antoine Carabinier Lépine Talks 'Barbu'

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

Picture a classic circus strongman and the thought of him lifting a heavy barbell isn't far behind. Quebec-based circus "Barbu" is bringing the strongmen, but in this show, they're the acrobats, too. In fact, the strongmen play all the parts. Described as electro-trad cabaret, this show presents traditional circus performance and then turns it on its head into what organizers describe as a "cheeky and exuberant circus rave." As "Barbu" is part of the 2019 Ann Arbor Summer Festival lineup on Thursday, June 20, BTL caught up with founder Antoine Carabinier Lépine to learn more about the show's boldness, its modern take on traditional performance and its unapologetically sensual aspects.

"Barbu" means bearded in French – is that a nod to the historically inspired strongmen in the show?

Yeah, exactly. We created that show after a show called "Timber!" and we were bearded during that time, so we decided to call that show "Barbu" because it reminds us also of all the bearded guys, the strong guys who were starting the circus in Montreal in the fairgrounds. So, for us, it was kind of a concept that it was suited for the show. And, you know, there was a lot of fairgrounds back in the day in Montreal, back in the beginning of the 1900s.

"Timber!" was about lumberjacks and now Cirque Alfonse is taking audiences to a rave. That's quite a shift.

Yeah, a really big difference. We created "Barbu" to be more like an androgynous show. It was really to bring people to the edge of their seats and "Timber!" was more about the classical, but "Barbu" is more about [the] impressive and stuff that you won't see anywhere else. It's like a reminder of a freak show, kind of.

In the description of the show on your website you say that political correctness has no place in "Barbu." Could you expand on that?

Yeah, exactly. The show is divided into two parts. So, the first part, it's more traditional skills like normal circus skills. We decided to do that really traditionally, but the second part is more weird and freaky and we've created acts that you've never seen before, and you feel the difference that makes it special. At first, people arrive and they're like, "Oh, that's weird, we didn't expect that" — there's a lot of circus skills but it's more traditional. But when the second part arrives, they're blown away, they don't expect that at all.

Do you think that the LGBTQ community will be able to relate to the show, too?

Yeah, for sure. It's always worked great with LGBT people because we're all big, bearded boys (laughs) and there's also girls with us, but we're really open with our bodies even though we're bigger and there's no censor about us. And like, we're really LGBTQ-friendly because it's a kind of a vibe that you can see in a Pride festival and it's really more adult as well. The vibe is a party, like a rave show. So for sure, you're going to love it.

I've read that when people see "Barbu" they're often surprised that you can do the acrobatic elements of your show because you're really strong, bearded men. Do you like breaking expectations like that?

(Laughs) For sure. It's part of our company to surprise people. For example, when we're in a bar or a restaurant people will ask us what we do and people never expect that we're acrobats. They always think that we're the technicians or musicians because we're quite big. So, for us, it's pretty nice to surprise people by doing stuff that they don't think we're able to do because we're bigger and a bit older as well. But yeah, we try to keep it up just to amaze people (laughs).

How do you continue to push the limits beyond what you're taught in school?

We've all pretty much been to the same school in Montreal. Twenty years ago all of us were there and we're still working together for 20 years, so we know a lot of stuff, we've been through a lot of circus shows — new acts and stuff like that — so we really know well what we can do and what we cannot. That's how it's been easier for us to do new stuff even though normally people train like a couple of years before they're able to do those kinds of things. Us? We manage to do them faster because we know each other so well. And I think that's a part of why we manage to push ourselves more and more and we never stop thinking about new things. When we're on tour and we're doing new stuff we're like, 'Oh, let's try that.' And we try to figure out also, all the circus skills that have been forgotten. So, we try to do the stuff that people don't want to do or that they've forgotten about.

Your touring company is very family based and on your site it says that Cirque Alfonse is focused on looking back to the past and making time for family and friends. I know you toured with family on "Timber!" Is it the same here?

Yeah, with "Timber!" We toured with my dad, my sister and my brother-in-law. But in "Barbu" my sister is still with us and my brother-in-law as well and my girlfriend, it's just my dad now is retired because he's a bit too old now for that (laughs). But otherwise, it's still really a family company and we still are a family working in the circus.

Was circus performance always part of your family dynamic?

No, actually I did the National Circus School and after that, I went on tour with many other companies like The 7 Fingers and Cirque du Soleil. And after a while, we decided with my sister to create a show for the 60th birthday of my dad. So, my dad started doing circus when he was 60 years old and he never did circus before. And now it's been like 13 years that the company is running and "Barbu" is our third show. So, we never did circus before with my family, we just started with the company.

What drew you to circus performance? Why did you find that to be something you wanted to pursue professionally?

Actually, it was my parents who brought me to see the National Circus School end-of-year show. And I went there and I fell in love. I was 14 years old and I just was blown away and said to them, "Oh, I want to do that." And they really supported us doing arts and circus and dance for my sister and it's why I decided to create a show with my dad, to thank my parents who supported us.

To find out more about Cirque Alfonse visit cirquealfonse.com. Find out more about their Thursday, June 20 show at the Power Center in Ann Arbor online at a2sf.org.

Michigan Pride March, Rally and Festival

MIPRIDE

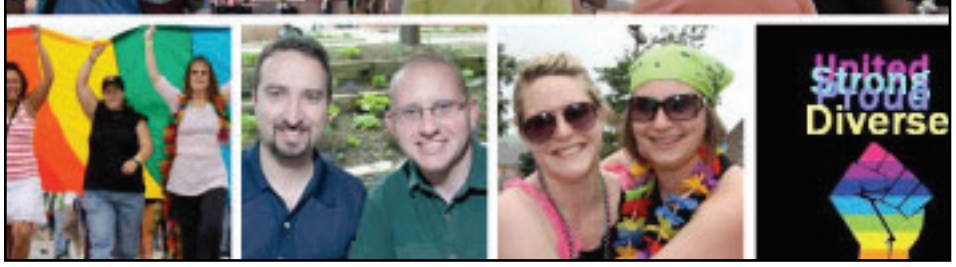
Saturday, June 15, 2019

STATE PRIDE MARCH
March to the steps of the Michigan Capitol and help us make history!
Assemble at 10:45am, step off at noon.

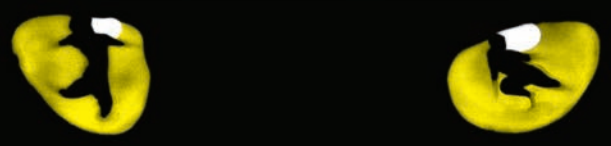
RALLY ON THE STEPS OF THE CAPITOL
let's make our voices heard!
Starts immediately following the Parade.

FESTIVAL
In Old Town
1 p.m. to 10 p.m.
Entertainment featuring Sabin from Detroit, New fame (female duo from Vietnam), and Tell Yo Mama (local Lansing band).
Over 75 vendors, food available, and a community of love.
$10 wristband gets you in all day.

More info at www.MichiganPride.org



LET THE MEMORY LIVE AGAIN



CATS

ON SALE NOW

FISHER THEATRE • SEPT 3 -15

BroadwayInDetroit.com, ticketmaster.com, 800-982-2787 & box office 313-872-1000;
Groups (12+) Groups@BroadwayInDetroit.com (subject: CATS) or 313-871-1132;
OC AD Sept. 8

TM © 1981 RUG LTD

2019 Michigan Pride Festival, Parade and Rally on June 15

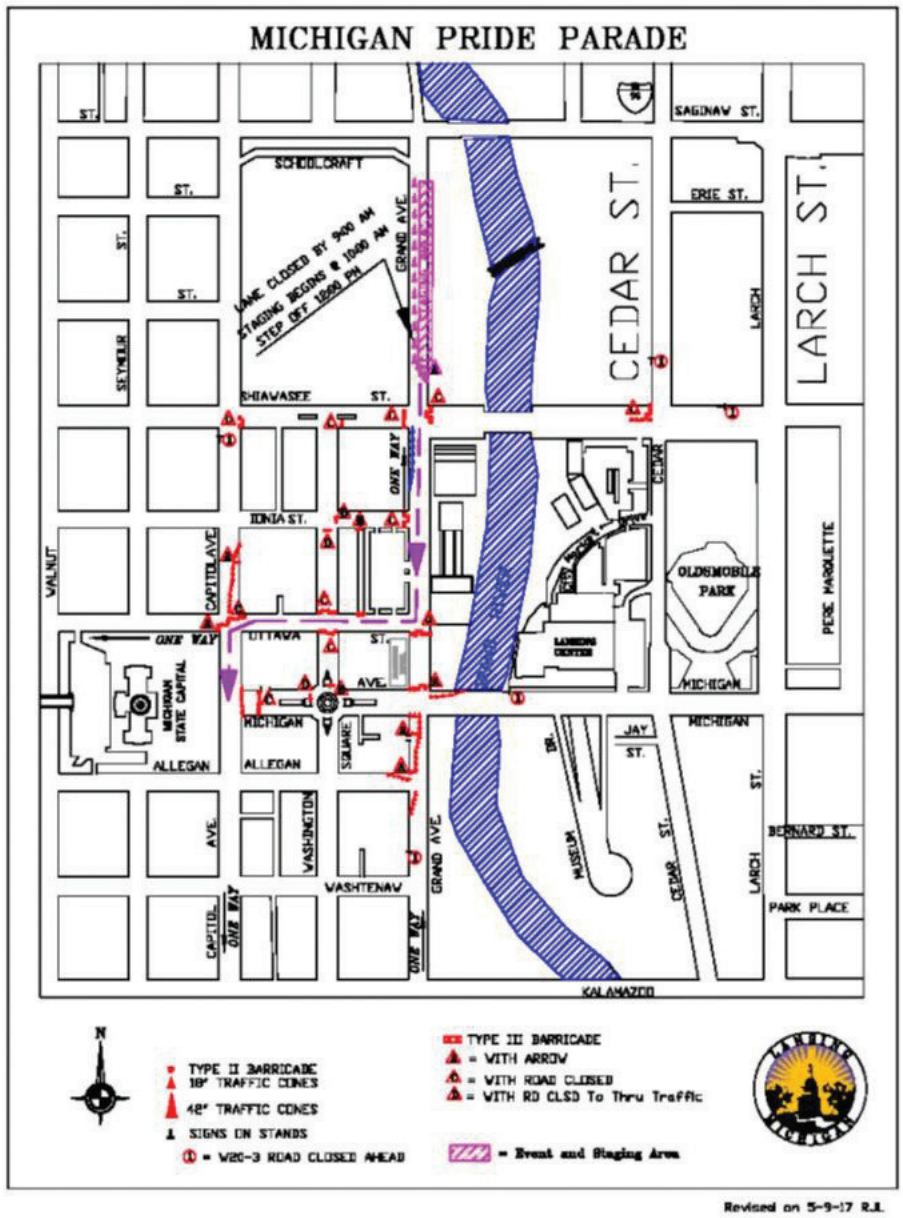
BY BTL STAFF

This year Lansing is celebrating Pride hard and providing dual ways for those interested in being politically active or celebrating the hard-won gains the LGBTQ community has fought for in the last half-century or so or even both.

"Michigan Pride is a statewide celebration that commemorates the equality achievements of the LGBTQ community while calling attention to what still needs to be done," wrote event organizers.

On Saturday, June 15, attendees can make their way down to the Michigan Pride Parade and Rally set to begin at stages in Adado Riverfront Park at 11 a.m. which will lead to a rally at the state capitol. There, guest speakers like Michigan's first openly gay Attorney General Dana Nessel will make an appearance and the event will conclude at 2 p.m.

However, Pride attendees can also make their



way to Old Town right at noon to enjoy the Pride Festival that will last until 10 p.m. that evening. There, performers like drag queens Sabin and Emma Sapphire will perform and funk band Tell Yo Mama.

See the event schedule below:

Michigan Pride Parade & Rally at the Capitol

Parade stages in front of Adado Riverfront Park at 11 a.m.

Parade steps off at noon.

Rally at the Capitol steps starts immediately following the parade

Some Guest Speakers Include:
Dana Nessel - Attorney General of Michigan
Michigan Pride Board Members
Cody Bennett - Trans Teen
Phiwa Langeni - Director of Salus Center
Shane Shananaquet - Trans Teen

Festival in Old Town:
Noon - 5:30 p.m.
DJ Restless

1 - 1:45 p.m.
LVRS - band

2 - 5 p.m.
Sabin & Emma Sapphire - Drag performances

5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
New Fame - female duo

8 - 10 p.m.
Tell Yo Mama - band

To find out more about the event visit the Michigan Pride Facebook page.

Elderly
INSTRUMENTS
Proudly serving the Greater Lansing community since 1972
1100 N. Washington, Lansing • (517) 372-7890 • elderly.com

THE WHITE PARTY
FRIDAY JUNE 14
SPIRAL-DANCEBAR LANSING, 1247 CENTER ST.,
LANSING, MICHIGAN 48906
Hosted by Michigan Pride,
Sir Pizza Grand Cafe
and Spiral DanceBar
White attire is strongly encouraged
Featuring DJs:
Tent: Justin Elemnt Taylor
Big Room: Klees
Drag Performances by: Asio Aviance // Caj Monet // Miss Spiral AM
The White Party: Doors at 8pm
21+ $10 // 18-20 $15
Afterglow Black Light Party: June 15th // Doors at 8pm
18+

Cellar
DUSTY'S
Okemos

Come Visit

Dusty's Cellar for :

Wine, Beer & Specialty Foods

Dusty's Wine Bar for :

Casual Fine Dining

Dusty's Tap Room -

Your Local Neighborhood Pub

On Grand River in Okemos

517-349-5150

www.dustyscellar.com

DAVID HARRIS, PH.D.
FULLY LICENSED PSYCHOLOGIST

Individual
Couples
Family Therapy

LANSINGPSYCH.NET
adjacent to msu campus

234 MICHIGAN AVENUE, EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN 48823
(517) 337-6545 X 232 FAX: (517) 337-3010

BTL
Cool Cities
Lansing

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD ◆ YOUR MARKET

Pinpoint your ad dollars where
they will do the most good . . .
Advertise in the next Cool Cities
TO PLACE AN AD CALL 734.293.7200

CELEBRATE PRIDE

SCHULER BOOKS
1982 Grand River Ave. Meridian Mall, Okemos

Exciting Announcement!
Williams Auto World has Expanded &
Now Includes Williams Hyundai

2845 East Saginaw St., Lansing, MI 48912
517-484-1341 | www.williamsautoworld.com

Williams | HYUNDAI

BTL Between the Lines

Shop The Rainbow

There are hundreds of businesses that advertise in BTL and **welcome everyone.**

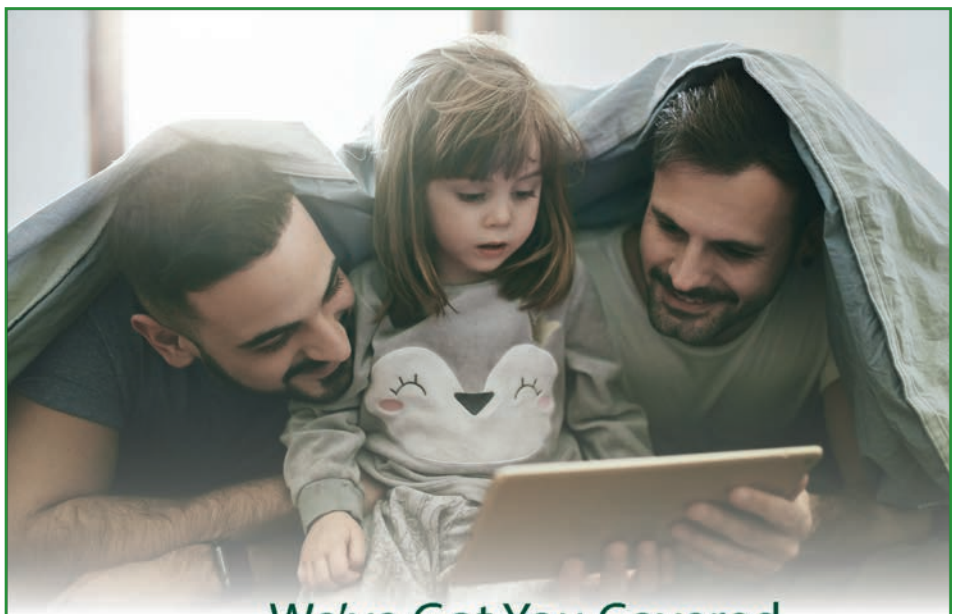
Invest in equality and work with businesses that support Michigan's LGBTQ community!

Bradley Vauter
& Associates, P.C.

THE PLACE FOR GOOD COUNSEL
Your Law Office!

Grand Ledge, MI 48837
517-853-8015
www.bradvauterlaw.com

Wishing Everyone a Happy Pride Season!



We've Got You Covered

From youth accounts and a cash back credit card to a mobile app and so much more, we have the financial resources to help make your dream a reality.

Open your account today!
msufcu.org • 517-333-2424

MSU Michigan State University FEDERAL CREDIT UNION
Building Dreams Together

NCUA
Federally insured by NCUA

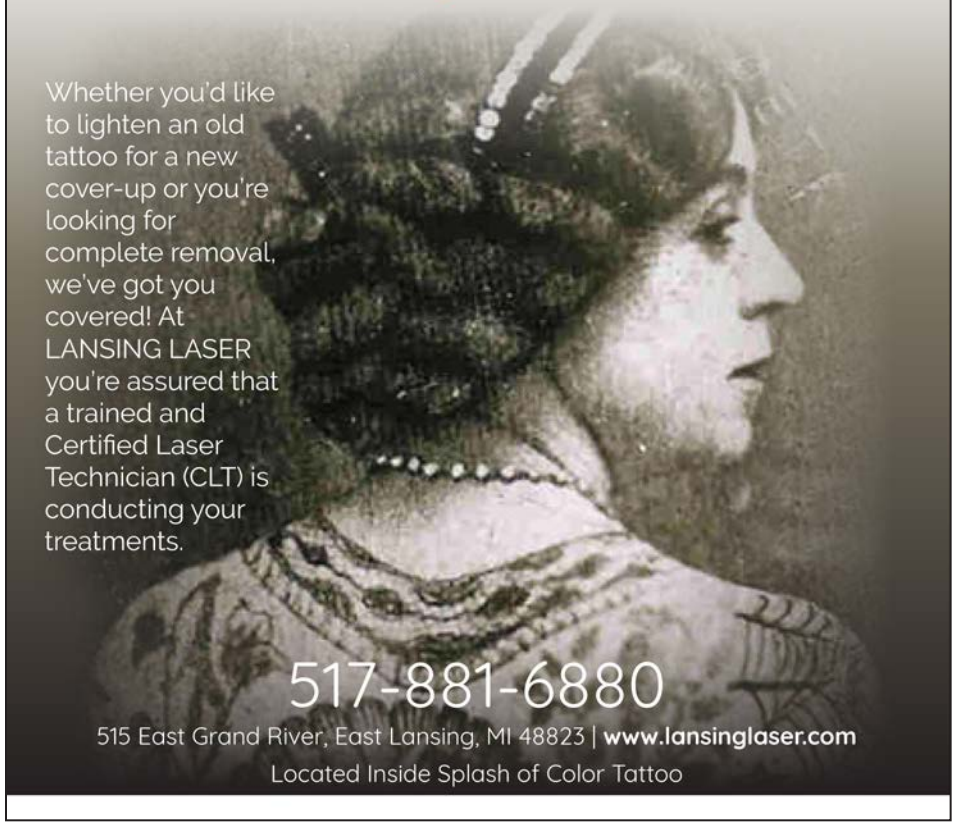
Educate.

Scholarships through the LCC Foundation provide opportunities that grow talent and build skills that ELEVATE our community. DONATE today.

Donate. Educate. Elevate
lcc.edu/elevate

LANSING COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION

Lansing Laser
PRECISION TATTOO REMOVAL



Whether you'd like to lighten an old tattoo for a new cover-up or you're looking for complete removal, we've got you covered! At LANSING LASER you're assured that a trained and Certified Laser Technician (CLT) is conducting your treatments.

517-881-6880
515 East Grand River, East Lansing, MI 48823 | **www.lansinglaser.com**
Located Inside Splash of Color Tattoo

SPLASH OF COLOR
★ TATTOO ★ PIERCING ★ LASER TATTOO REMOVAL ★

splashtattoos

From the simple to the ornate, we have an amazing staff of talented Tattoo Artists & Professional Piercers ready to work with you on getting the adornment you desire & will treasure FOREVER!

info@splashtattoos.com | www.splashtattoos.com | 517.333.0990
515 Grand River Ave., Suite F | East Lansing, MI 48823

History Comes Alive in Historical Exhibit in Detroit

BTL STAFF

DETROIT – The Stonewall rebellion ignited a movement that spread across the nation 50 years ago, including in Detroit. What's happened in Detroit since that catalytic uprising is documented in a remarkable new exhibit, Invisible No Longer: LGBTQ+ Detroit, now open to the public at the Detroit Historical Society through Sept. 30.

The exhibit, created by a partnership of Dr. Tim Retzloff, the Ruth Ellis Center, Between The Lines and LGBT Detroit, includes photographs and art depicting the accomplishments and trials of Detroit since 1969. The exhibit provides a sweeping overview of the turning points that have propelled the LGBTQ community from the shadows to limited legal protections, to inclusion in the workplace and to marriage equality. The exhibit also challenges visitors to not takes these gains for granted, nor to stop pushing for full equality under the law and in the social fabric of the nation.

A special opening celebration will feature Curtis Lipscomb, executive director of LGBT Detroit, who will present a talk about the organization's role in the city and its connection to civil rights and social justice. This opening is June 20, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. and is free, however pre-registration is encouraged at casieb@detroithistorical.org. More information is available at www.detroithistorical.org.

Grosse Pointe Hosts 3rd Annual Pride March June 22

BY BTL STAFF

Welcoming Everyone Grosse Pointe, also known as We GP, will host the third annual Grosse Pointe Pride March on Saturday, June 22, starting at 9:30 a.m., in conjunction with National Pride month and hundreds of cities across the nation hosting their own marches and events. The objective is to raise awareness and show support for the LGTBQ community within Grosse Pointe as well as those who are considering the area for shopping, dining, recreation and living.

Attendees are invited to start gathering for the family friendly march at 9:30 a.m. in the Grosse Pointe South High School "J" parking lot along Fisher Road and will

JOANNE NEMECEK, LMSW;
outpatient therapist
Empowering individuals to live authentic lives
Special interest - working with transgender people and their families
2020 Raybrook St. SE, Suite 305
Grand Rapids, MI 49546
616-202-4444
joannenemecek@gmail.com
ADVANCED COUNSELING & THERAPY SERVICES, LLC

There are hundreds of businesses that advertise in BTL and **welcome everyone**.
Invest in equality and work with businesses that support Michigan's LGBTQ community!
LOVE Wins
Between THE Lines™

proceed along Kercheval Avenue to Maire Elementary School. Before the march begins, Pride merchandise will be available for purchase and family friendly activities will be offered, including face painting. The march will start at 10 a.m. and will conclude with a brief rally in the Maire Elementary School parking lot at 11 a.m., which will feature food trucks, a performance by a community choir, a peace meditation and other vendors and activities. New to this year's March will be a Pride-themed float, a performance by Grosse Pointe South 2011 graduate Sierra Misst, an organized military presence to recognize the LGTBQ community's contribution to our armed forces, and the group Free Mom Hugs will be in attendance.

The Grosse Pointe Pride March has quickly become a popular event in the community, with more than 1,000 community members and families attending annually to march, gather and show support for their friends and neighbors.

"Grosse Pointe Pride is an opportunity to show what a truly welcoming and inclusive community Grosse Pointe is, and we have a lot of fun while doing it," said Andrea Joy, We GP LGTBQ+ Task Force leader. "It's also a great time to speak with kids about accepting and supporting different kind of families and people. There is a gay agenda; it's to be proud to be your unique self!"

A portion of the proceeds from this year's event will benefit Outserve-SLDN, which provides legal services for LGBTQ service members. Its mission is to educate the community, provide legal services, advocate for authentic transgender service, provide developmental opportunities, support members and local chapters, communicate effectively, and work towards equality for all.

"We felt it was important to recognize the contribution LGBTQ service-members have made and will continue to make to our armed forces," said Shannon Byrne, We GP President. "With the Trump administration transgender military service ban in place, it is more critical than ever to give our support to organizations such as Outserve-SLDN, which advocate for our LGBTQ service-members. We believe everyone should be allowed to serve with dignity."

Attendees are encouraged to continue their Pride celebrations at other local Pride festivals

The Grosse Pointe Pride March boasts 37 sponsors this year. Gold level sponsors include: O'Flaherty's, the 1000 block of Balfour, Blair Hess & Derek Latka, Park Grill, Posterity Framing & Printing, Fishbones, Fisher Pointe Dental, the Byrne/Simon family and Steiner Printing.

Find out more about the event online at we-gp.org.

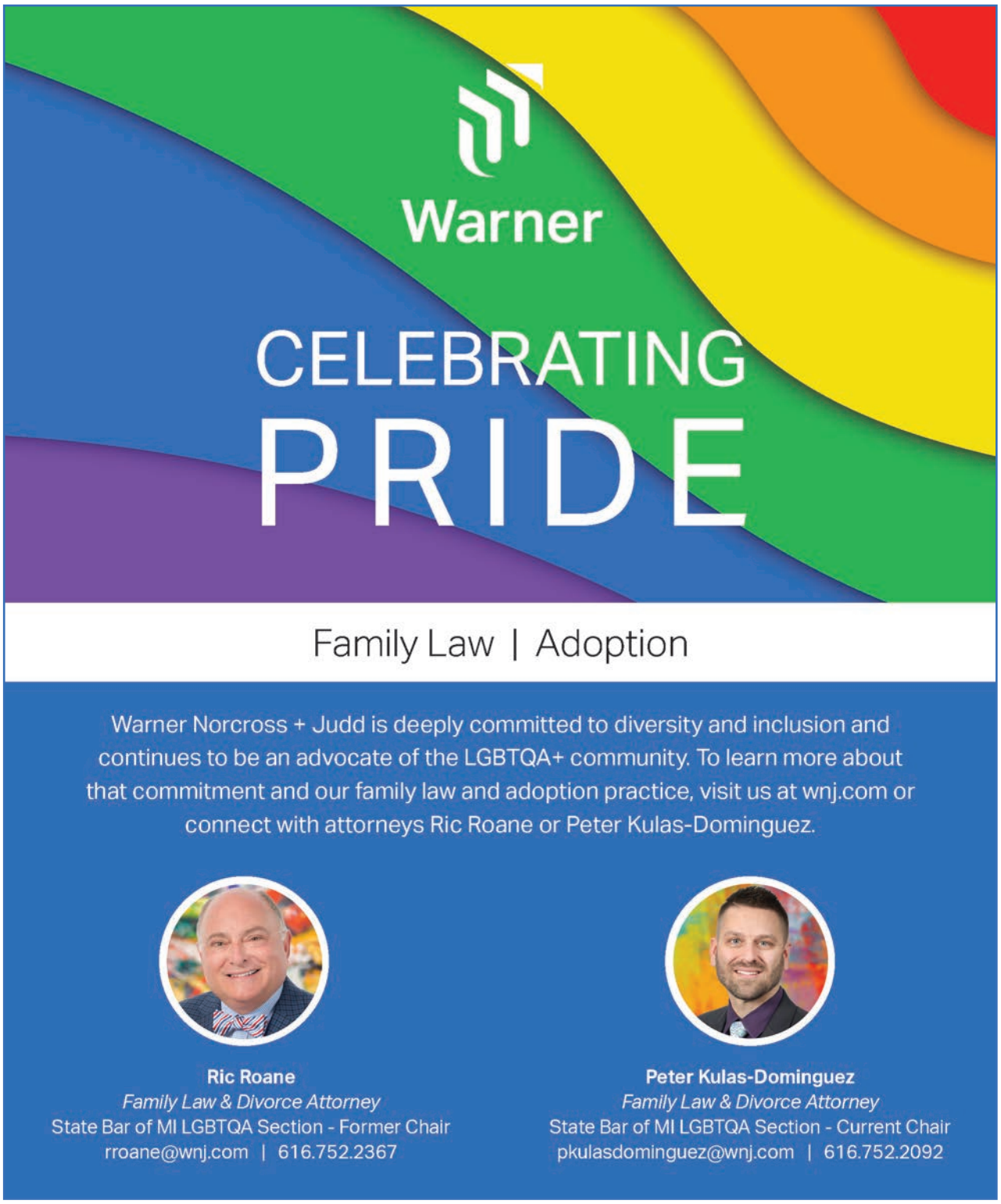
Sufjan Stevens Releases 2 Songs in Honor of Pride Month

BY BTL STAFF

In celebration of Pride Month, Sufjan Stevens released two new songs today via Asthmatic Kitty on the topic of love: "Love Yourself" and "With My Whole Heart," available on all digital platforms, and on limited-edition 7" vinyl on June 28. A portion of the proceeds from this project will go to two organizations that provide support for LGBTQ and homeless kids in America — the Ali Forney Center in Harlem, New York, and the Ruth Ellis Center in Detroit.

"Love Yourself" is based on a sketch Stevens wrote 20 years ago. The original 4-track demo he recorded in 1996 is included as well as a short instrumental reprise. "With My Whole Heart" is a completely new song that Stevens wrote as a personal challenge to "write an upbeat and sincere love song without conflict, anxiety or self-deprecation." Sufjan also designed a Pride T-shirt that is available exclusively on his new merchandizing platform Sufjamz.

To find out more about the Ali Forney Center visit aliforneycenter.org/about-us/. For more about the Ruth Ellis Center go to ruthelliscenter.org. More about Asthmatic Kitty Records can be found here: asthmatickitty.com.


Warner
CELEBRATING
PRIDE
Family Law | Adoption
Warner Norcross + Judd is deeply committed to diversity and inclusion and continues to be an advocate of the LGBTQA+ community. To learn more about that commitment and our family law and adoption practice, visit us at wnj.com or connect with attorneys Ric Roane or Peter Kulas-Dominguez.
Ric Roane
Family Law & Divorce Attorney
State Bar of MI LGBTQA Section - Former Chair
rroane@wnj.com | 616.752.2367
Peter Kulas-Dominguez
Family Law & Divorce Attorney
State Bar of MI LGBTQA Section - Current Chair
pkulasdominguez@wnj.com | 616.752.2092

Q&A: Lev Raphael's 'State University of Murder' Shines Satirical Light on Higher Education and Abuse of Authority

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

Hypocrisy, secrets, power struggles and even murder are at the center of author Lev Raphael's latest book, and no, it's not set amongst cutthroat pirates or even politicians: "State University of Murder: A Nick Hoffman Mystery" takes place in the seemingly mundane halls of academia. Still, it's not all seriousness; this cultural satire takes a deep dive into the delicate politics of higher education with a sense of humor that reviewers have called "delightful," "pointed" and "witty."

This is Raphael's ninth mystery book with LGBTQ character Nick Hoffman at the lead. Hoffman being a professor, too, Raphael said his own education and experiences as an LGBTQ educator himself have helped give him an informed, true-to-life, inside look at the higher learning community, warts and all, throughout Hoffman's existence. And "State University of Murder" provides not only another glimpse into that reality but a topical one as well.

Raphael took the time to catch up with BTL to share more about Nick Hoffman's latest adventure, his inspiration for this mystery and his writing process.

This is the ninth Nick Hoffman story, so clearly academia is a rich source material for satire. What drew you to it as a topic initially?

There's all this high-minded rhetoric about a community of learning and a community of scholars and shepherding young minds and you name it, and it's [a] reality that many schools are just a number of [sports] teams with classes attached. You can see where the values are in how much money is spent and where it's spent, so I saw that this was a great subject for satire and that's the tone of the book. The murders themselves are not satirical – those are taken very seriously – but the university world, the academic world, is a world where people are not treated as well as they should be.

Mystery books make up only a small portion of what you've written; you've published everything from books on the LGBTQ community, the Jewish community and even self-help books. What keeps you coming back to the mystery genre?

Oh, I discovered Agatha Christie when I was in junior high at my local library and I just fell in love with her books. Her plots are so intricate that I can re-read a book of hers years later and I won't remember who did it. I was just fascinated by it and I just started reading all the mysteries on the shelves and fell in love with the genre. And, you know, I'm the son of Holocaust survivors and, at a certain point, a number of my works had been published already when one of my editors said, "Your work is pretty dark, why don't you try writing something funny?" And then I immediately thought of a mystery series in academia because it was the funniest environment I knew.

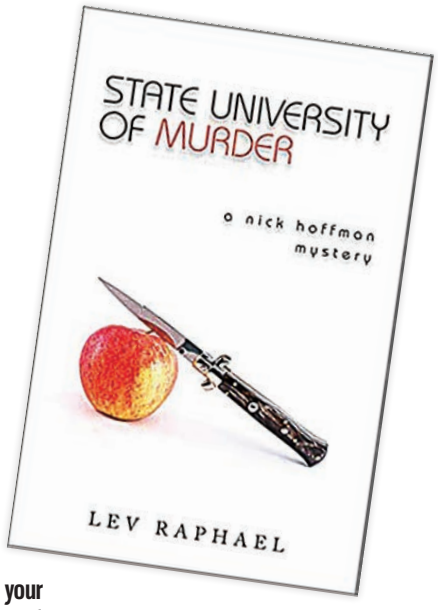
What draws you in about crime stories like this one?

Crime fiction is one of the most popular genres in the country along with romance, and that tells you something, right? Two sides of life: murder and romance. And I never know when exactly I'm going to write a book, because I write in other genres as well, so the mystery series is sort of a vacation for me from the other books that I write, whatever they happen to be. And that's a great thing about having a mystery series because you have some core characters who keep returning so you're not starting from scratch and inventing a whole new world. Even though that world changes and those people change, you have a foundation which is really nice; it's like the bar in "Cheers," it's nice to come back, you feel at home.

Where do you draw inspiration for Nick? Is he based off of yourself or anyone you know?

He's part of me and so is his partner Stefan, but not all me. There's no one-to-one correspondence to any character, they're all pretty much inspired by someone or a few people and then I develop them into someone else.

This particular story deals with sexual assault and harassment, topics that as of late have been more widely discussed in the media and even in your work environment. Since you went to school and now work at Michigan State University, did you draw inspiration from any of the events surrounding the Larry Nassar scandal?



Oh yeah, absolutely. I was really, as I think we all were in Michigan, horrified by what was revealed to have been going on at Michigan State with the Larry Nassar scandal and many other issues connected to sexual assault and sexual harassment. All of that was focused for me because I was teaching there at the time and my office mate had been assaulted by someone, told me about it and he had been stalking her. And actually, it was somebody who was on campus. Then, one of my creative writing students started telling me about someone who was stalking her and I said, "Wait a minute, this sounds like the same guy," and it actually was. And I put the two of them in touch with each other and I have to say that each one of them felt very badly treated by MSU, and so the book is not a transcription of their experiences but because of knowing them and because of knowing what was going on I thought I need to write something that not only includes sexual assault and sexual harassment, but it's about the abuse of power because I think that's the larger question.

To find out more about Lev Raphael and his latest work go online to levraphael.com. To purchase "State University of Murder" visit amazon.com.

Serving the LGBTQ+ community for three decades

Christine Yared
Attorney • Writer • Speaker

616.363.9041
cayared@comcast.net

www.christineyared.com
www.facebook.com/gayteacher
www.linkedin.com/in/christineyared3

Alexander Zachary
Realtor

313-502-2284 *cell*
248-626-2100 *office*
azachary@kw.com
https://alexander.kwrealty.com

Keller Williams West Bloomfield
30500 Northwestern Hwy., Suite 300
Farmington hills, MI 48334

kw KELLERWILLIAMS MLS

PBS Film 'The Lavender Scare' Showcases US Govt.'s Efforts to Rid Federal Workforce of LGBTQ Employees

Narrated by Glenn Close and featuring the voices of Cynthia Nixon, Zachary Quinto, T. R. Knight and David Hyde Pierce, "The Lavender Scare" tells the little-known story of an unrelenting campaign by the federal government to identify and fire employees suspected of being homosexual. Produced and directed by Josh Howard and based on the award-winning book by David K. Johnson, "The Lavender Scare" premieres Tuesday, June 18, 2019, at 9 p.m. on PBS.

In 1953, at the height of the Cold War and Sen. Joe McCarthy's virulent campaign against suspected Communists and possible traitors, President Eisenhower declared gay men and lesbians to be a threat to the security of the country and therefore unfit for government service. In doing so, he incited decades of stigmatization against LGBTQ employees in the federal workforce.

Over the next four decades, tens of thousands of government workers were intimidated, harassed and investigated, confronted with information from anonymous informants and threatened with exposure. Many lost their jobs and prospects for the future — some even driven to suicide — for no reason other than their sexual orientation. But the actions of the government had an unintended effect, stirring outrage in the community and helping to ignite the gay rights movement.

In 1957, after being questioned about his homosexuality by two civil servants, a Harvard-trained astronomer working with the U.S. Army's Map Service became the first person to fight his dismissal. Instead of arguing against the prevailing opinion that homosexuality was immoral, Frank Kameny reframed the issue as one of civil rights — discrimination against a particular group — and his attempts to regain his job evolved into a lifelong battle for the rights of LGBTQ people until his death in 2011.

It was not until 1995 that President Clinton signed an executive order ending the ban on security clearances for gay workers.

Featuring interviews with Kameny and others who were targeted, as well as authors and government officials responsible for investigating federal employees, "The Lavender Scare" is a compelling story of a fight for justice and a chilling reminder of how easy it can be, during a time of fear and uncertainty, to trample the rights of an entire class of people in the name of patriotism and national security.

FACING CRIMINAL CHARGES?

Felonies and Misdemeanors/Drug charges,
Drivers License Restoration

Divorce or Custody Issues?

Charged With a D.U.I?

Call 616-395-3777

Lakeshore Legal Office

Affordable & Reputable Legal Representation

227 W. 17th St., Holland MI 49423

Did you just U-Haul and now have one too many houses?

RENT IT OUT!

GROSSE POINTE APARTMENTS
& Property Management

Anna Bartolotta, Owner, Broker
313-505-0456 GrossePointeApartments.com
17728 Mack Ave. Grosse Pointe, MI 48230

A woman owned and operated business since 2006.

Happenings

‘Anastasia’ at the Fisher Theatre Through June 23

The Tony Award-winning musical “Anastasia” is now in Detroit. Both longtime fans and those new to the show can expect an adventure and romance-filled night about the lost princess Anastasia on the hunt to discover the mystery of her past. Find out more about the show online at broadwayindetroit.com.

OUTINGS

Friday, June 14

Lgbt social meet up group Wed Fed 27 6thirty pm 6:30 p.m. Lgbt social meet up group is a group for all lgbt people. All welcomed, we are on going every ongoing Hazel Park Community Center, 620 West Woodward Heights, Hazel Park. 248-632-8274. redbellysenegal90@gmail.com.

Saturday, June 15

LGBT Community Chat 11 a.m. Saturday LGBT Chat is an on going social discussion group meets every week to discuss issues LGBT people face. Coming out, dating, and much more. Come join us every Saturday at 11 am. Java Hut Ferndale Michigan, 165 W. 9 mile, Ferndale. 248-632-8274. redbellysenegal90@gmail.com.

Sunday, June 16

Stand with Trans Wyandotte Support Group for Trans Youth and Parents of Trans Individuals 4 p.m. Free. For Parent Support Group information, contact facilitator Kim Tooley, 734-747-4363. St. Stephens Episcopal Church, 2803 1st St.,Wyandotte. 734-747-4363. standwithtrans.org.

Monday, June 17

LGBT Game Night 7 p.m. LGBT Game Night is an opportunity for all LGBT people and allies to come play a board game, drink coffee and socialize with other LGBT individuals. Java Hut, 165 W NIne Mile,Ferndale. 248-632-8274. redbellysenegal90@gmail.com.

Wednesday, June 19

Affirmations Senior Koffee Clatch! 1 p.m. A discussion and networking group for people 45 and older. Various discussion topics, social outings, and potlucks are held throughout the year. With age comes wisdom but, for LGBTQ seniors, loneliness can often come along. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. goaffirmations.org.

Stand with Trans Support Groups – Livonia – Wayne County 6:30 p.m. Free to all. Parent Support Group Faciitators Karen Sessler, kssessle@yahoo.com or 734-673-3590 and Scott Sessler, pastorscott@emmanuel-livonia.org or 734-673-2485 Trans Youth Support Group (12+). Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 34567 7 Mile Road, Livonia. standwithtrans.org.

Thursday, June 27

Toastmasters International SpeakOUT! LGBTQ Meeting 7 p.m. Professional & personal communication skills development. Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Court, Ann Arbor. 734-995-9867. lawrencemoebs@gmail.com.

Thursday, July 4

Pride Night at Thunderbowl! 7 p.m. Meet & Greet First Thursday of every month, unlimited bowling, shoe rental, private room, private bar area, drink specials, billiard room, 250 foot video wall. Come as you are!! Thunderbowl Arena, 4200 Allen Road,Allen Park. 313-928-4688. thunderbowl.org.

Sunday, July 7

Stand with Trans 2018 Support Groups – Adrian-Lenawee County 6:30 p.m. FREE and OPEN to the community. For parents of transgender kids, this group meets the 1st Sunday of each month @ Hilltop Counseling For Trans Youth Support Group information, contact facilitator Socorro Sevilla, MSW: socorro@hilltopcounseling.org Hilltop Counseling, 115 W. Maumee St., Adrian. 313-909-5408. standwithtrans.org. hilltopcounseling.org.

Editor’s Pick

Michigan Pride March June 15

The Michigan Pride March is an intentionally political event that serves to honor all the statewide Pride events across Michigan and then finishes off with an all-ages parade, rally and festival. The event will start at noon at Adado Riverfront Park. Find out more by visiting gaybe.am/qe.

SUMMER OF PRIDE

June 15
Grand Rapids Pride

Grand Rapids Pride is a West Michigan mainstay that has been recurring since 1988. The event, as all Prides do, brings LGBTQ people together in a celebration dedicated to the acceptance of everyone's identities.

facebook.com/grandrapidspridecenter

June 15
Michigan Pride

On its website the organization states it "provides education, outreach, support and events to enhance the lives of lesbian, bisexual, gay, and transgender people and builds quality relationships with all Michigan residents." It holds events throughout the year in the greater Lansing area and produces the June Pride event on the steps of the capitol followed by a festival in Old Town.

facebook.com/MichiganPride

June 15
Picnic in the Park

produced by Lapeer Pride

This event is held in Rowden Park and encourages attendees to bring both friends and a dish to pass around. At the event will be games, activities and more.

facebook.com/lapeerpride

June 17-23
Up North Pride

The sixth annual Up North Pride Week takes place in Traverse City June 17-23, featuring free special events every night of the week celebrating the LGBTQ+ community.

Up North Pride Week is hosted by Up North Pride/Loud and Proud - visit www.upnorthpride.com.

facebook.com/upnorthpride

June 21-22
Holland Pride

Sponsored by the Out On The Lake Shore LGBTQ community center, Holland Pride is an event that invites all LGBTQ people and allies to celebrate. There will be events in the Park Theater on Friday night with a community celebration in Centennial Park on Sat., June 22.

facebook.com/HollandPride

June 22
Flint Pride

Pride events are a positive stance against discrimination and violence toward the LGBTQ community, and Flint Pride aims to do that. Entertainment will be included in the event.

facebook.com/FLINTGAYPRIDE

June 22
Sault Ste. Marie Pride

This event invites all LGBTQ people and allies to enjoy a day of affirmations, fun and entertainment.

facebook.com/Sault.Pride/

June 22
Grosse Pointe Pride

Grosse Pointe Pride will feature a Family Friendly March in support of the LGBTQ community at the Grosse Pointe South High School for face painting and a rally, and then lead into a step-off at Maire Elementary for a community picnic with vendors and more.

facebook.com/gppride/

June 29
Great Lakes Bay Pride

This event will be held at Wenonah Park in Bay City and will include retail, LGBTQ resources, food, vendors and activities.

facebook.com/greatlakesbaypride

MUSIC & MORE

Pride Performance by PRISM Gay Men and Allies Chorus June 15, 3 p.m. On Saturday, June 15, the PRISM Gay Men's and Allies Chorus will perform a series of tunes as part of a double performance, titled Destination Detroit – Music That Put Us on the Map, featuring One event on June 15 at 8:00pm Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. 4th Street,Royal Oak. 248-399-2980 www.royaloakmusictheatre.com http://royaloakmusictheatre.com/events/detail/371752

Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival: Opening Night June 15, 6 p.m. Celebrate the 26th Anniversary of the Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival on Opening Night and see the nine-time Grammy Award-winning Emerson String Quartet perform!

Kenny Metcalf as Elton June 15, 7 p.m. Kenny Metcalf as Elton and The Early Years Band is a tribute performance to the one and only Elton John. This event is 18+. Emerald Theare, 13 N. Walnut,Mount Clemens. 586-630-0120 theemeraldtheatre.com.

Coordinating a Community Response to the Opioid Epidemic June 25, 7:30 p.m. Molly Welch Marahar Opioid Project Coordinator; and Carrie Rheingans, WHI Project Manager, Center for Healthcare Research & Transformation will be joined by a panel to discuss coordinating a community response to the opioid epidemic. St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center Auditorium, 5305 Elliott Drive,Ypsilanti. 734-485-8725. dawnfarm.org.

Grace Jones July 1, 7 p.m. The legendary Grace Jones come to the Masonic Temple on July 1. Masonic Temple Theatre, 500 Temple St.,Detroit. themasonic.com

THEATER

Anastasia June 11, 7:30 p.m. Anastasia, the new Broadway musical, comes to the Fisher Theatre. An event every day that begins at 7:30pm, repeating until June 23 Fisher Theatre, 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit. 313-872-1000. broadwayindetroit.com/anastasia.

Detroit Repertory Theatre Presents "Williston" June 14, 8:30 p.m. Three energy reps travel to Willston, ND to get mineral rights to the last big piece of undeveloped land. A scintillating exploration of how business corrupts people and the fine line between commerce and conscience. Detroit Repertory Theatre, 13103 Woodrow Wilson, Detroit. 313-868-1347. DetRepTh@aol.com. detroitreptheatre.com.

Barbu Electro Trad Cabaret – Cirque Alfonse June 20, 8 p.m. Part of the Ann Arbor Summer Festival entertainment series, Barbu Electro Trad Cabaret by Cirque Alfonse delves into the origins of the circus in Montreal. Power Center, 121 Fletcher St., Ann Arbor. 734-647-3327. info@a2sf.org. smtd.umich.edu.

MASSAGE FOR MEN

Safe-Discrete, good prices.
Royal Oak Area. 15 yrs. Experience.

CALL LEE 248-548-6516

S	L	O	P	E		R	A	F	T		T	A	S	K
S	I	M	O	N		E	D	I	E		O	N	T	O
R	E	A	L	M		H	A	N	A		S	N	A	P
	F	R	E	E	D	O	M	I	S	W	H	A	T	
				S	I	B		T	E	R	I			
Y	O	U	C	H	O	O	S	E	T	O		M	A	L
U	L	N	A		N	T	H		S	T	M	A	R	Y
C	O	T	T	A		H	A	H		E	E	L	E	R
C	R	I	T	I	C		R	O	W		T	I	N	E
A	D	E		D	O	W	I	T	H	W	H	A	T	S
			T	A	R	O		H	E	R				
	B	E	E	N	D	O	N	E	T	O	Y	O	U	
C	O	L	D		E	L	I	A		N	U	R	S	E
B	A	L	D		R	E	N	D		G	R	E	E	R
S	T	A	Y		O	N	E	S		S	I	S	S	Y

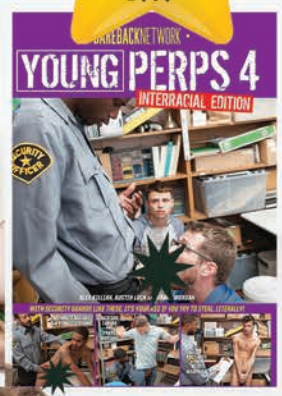
Solution to puzzle on page 37

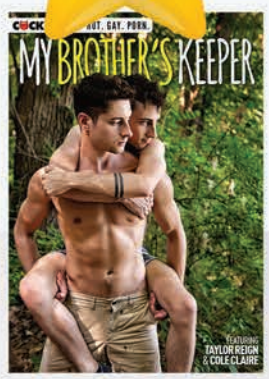
THE FINEST IN ADULT ENTERTAINMENT AT THE BEST PRICES!

BUY ADULT DVD'S STARTING AT $5.95

EVERY TUES & FRIDAY NEW RELEASE DAY

ALL XXX DVD RENTALS AS LOW AS $1.25 EVERY DAY!





BOGO SALE
BUY ONE
AT REGULAR PRICE (RED STICKER ONLY!)
GET ONE $5.95 DVD
FREE
YOUR CHOICE
JUNE 13-19, 2019

UPTOWN SPECIAL
XXX DVD'S
3/$9.99
WHILE THEY LAST
JULY 1-7, 2019

Rush - Jungle Juice - Maximum Impact - Swiss Navy - Amsterdam- ID Glide - COLT- Butterfly Kiss Pink- The Womanizer

UPTOWN
BOOKSTORES
ADULT VIDEO
2 LOCATIONS
WWW.UPTOWNADULT.COM

16541 Woodward Ave.
at McNichols next to "Deja Vu"
Highland Park
313.869.9477

16401 W. 8 Mile
Between Greenfield & Southfield
Detroit
313.836.0647

Hours:
Mon-Sat 9am - 10pm
Sun Noon - 8pm

SAFELY HOSTING
The Diplomat Club
Come Play

Our Second Floor
THE UPPER LEVEL
A QUIRKY URBAN STAY

3 Great Rooms; The Retro Room
The Loft | The Suite
Hot Breakfast Served Daily
GENDERFLUID
Check in 3 pm and Check out 11am
RESERVATIONS/INFO: **616-427-3323**

24/7/365 • Hot Tub • Cedar Wood Sauna
Large TV Areas • Hot Videos • Theatre
And many more amenities!

www.thediplomatclub.com

CUMUNION
An International Sex Party

2324 Division Ave S
Grand Rapids, Mi

Tel 616-452-3754
PRIVATE GAY HEALTH CLUB

BZ
BODYZONE DETROIT

TUESDAYS: College Night
FREE LOCKERS
for Members 18-25

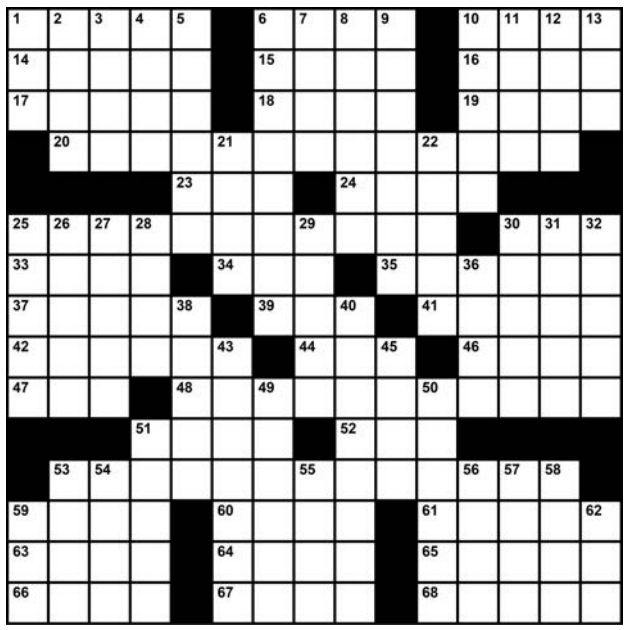
WEDNESDAYS:
Wet & Wild Wednesdays
FREE LUBE with a room or locker rental

THURSDAYS:
COUPLES NIGHT
Couples get a $5 Locker when renting any room

LEATHER Night
Sat. June 15
$5 Lockers for members in Chaps/Harness

*Room upgrades charged and normal rates

1617 E. McNichols @ 1-75 Det 313-366-9663 OPEN 24/7
PRIVATE GAY HEALTH CLUB Entry ID: Drivers License-State ID-Passport



I Rise

QPuzzle

Across

1 Brooklyn dyke neighborhood Park ___
6 Rubber vessel, perhaps
10 Hand job, for one?
14 "American Idol" judge Callow
15 Falco of "The Sopranos"
16 "I'm ___ your tricks!"
17 Where a queen may rule
18 Mandlikova of tennis
19 Break under strain
20 Start of a quote from Madonna's "I Rise"
23 Danny to Rosie, for short
24 Garr of "Tootsie"
25 More of the quote
30 Baudelaire's evil
33 Humerus neighbor
34 Unknown degree
35 Canonized gay guy?
37 Baked, to Buonarroti
39 Skeptical ejaculation
41 Conger hunter
42 Rex Reed, for one
44 Straight line
46 Part used in forking around
47 Ending for lemon or lime
48 More of the quote
51 Starch source
52 Cukor's "A Life of ___ Own"
53 End of the quote
59 Word before cock
60 Film director Kazan
61 Career option for Jack McFarland
63 Like a slick head
64 Split
65 Garson of Hollywood
66 "Don't leave me!"
67 Bills stuffed in a stripper's G-string
68 "Oliver Button Is a ___ "

Down

1 The USA, perhaps, if Trump is reelected
2 Willingly, to Shakespeare
3 Barbra's "Funny Girl" guy
4 A fireman goes down on it
5 Put on some fishnet stockings?
6 Vacation spot in Delaware
7 Cukor's rib donor
8 Subject to limitations
9 They help show off your oolong
10 Reagon of the Big Lovely band
11 Girl who goes both ways?
12 RBI to Glenn Burke
13 Keystone figure
21 Diva Celine
22 Practiced Vidal's art
25 Desert plant
26 Prayer starter
27 Release from bondage
28 Women's suffrage leader Carrie
29 She had her hand up Lamb Chop
30 Sasha Obama's big sister
31 "Looks ___ everything"
32 The Greeks plucked around with them
36 The M in SMU (abbr.)
38 Gillen of "Queer as Folk"
40 Glory hole inserts?
43 Jockey Angel
45 Put an edge on
49 Like undies that scratch your nether parts
50 Hate crimes, for example
51 Bear type
53 Vidal's "Rocking the ___ "
54 Scat queen Fitzgerald
55 Baseball number
56 Doctor Zhivago
57 Vein contents
58 Objectifies, sexually
59 Network for "The Ellen Show"
62 Trick's tail?

Find solution on page 35 and at www.pridesource.com

2019 Toyota Camry LE

$22,009

Page Specials
$1,500 cash back on select 2019 Toyota Camry

Financing Offer : 3.9% for 72 mos on select Toyota models

MSRP $25,629. Offer only valid through 6/01/2019

OR

2019 Honda HR-V

Continuously Variable Transmission
AWD LX Featured Special Lease

Manufacturer Offers
$209 per month
for 36 Months, $3,099.00 total due at signing.

Offer only valid through 7/08/2019

#TIME2KNOW GET TESTED

NOW OFFERING INTEGRATED TESTING

- Rapid HIV
- Rapid Hep C
- Gonorrhea
- Chlamydia
- Syphilis

CONVENIENT METRO DETROIT LOCATIONS

Matrix MAC Health in Ferndale & MidTown Detroit • Affirmations in Ferndale

ALSO TESTING IN BARS, CLUBS AND OTHER METRO AREA LOCATIONS

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Matrix MAC Health FERNDALE 9AM-4:30PM By Appointment	Matrix MAC Health FERNDALE 9AM-7:30PM Walk-In	Affirmations FERNDALE 5:30PM-8:30PM Walk-In or Appointment; Mpowerment Detroit MIDTOWN 11AM-7PM Walk-In	Matrix MAC Health FERNDALE 9AM-4:30PM Walk-In	Matrix MAC Health FERNDALE 9AM-5PM Walk-In STD Testing ONLY Gonorrhea, Syphilis, Chlamydia, Hep C	Mpowerment Detroit MIDTOWN 3rd Saturday of each month 11AM-2PM Walk-In

NO SUNDAY TESTING

Call 1.888.226.6366 to make an appointment or for information.

1(888) A CONDOM

MATRIX HUMAN SERVICES

MATRIX MAC HEALTH IS A PROGRAM OF MATRIX HUMAN SERVICES. LEARN MORE. GIVE. VOLUNTEER. DISCOVER MATRIX AT MatrixHumanServices.org

PrEP Clinic
Now Open
Tuesdays
10:00am-3:00pm
3011 West Grand Blvd
Suite 230
Detroit, MI 48202
313-446-9800
UNIFIED
hiv health and beyond
LIFE CONTINUES. LIVE HEALTHY.
In partnership with
Sinai Grace Hospital
Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) is a way to help prevent HIV by taking a pill every day
PrEP must be taken every day to be most effective
HIV Testing
PrEP Assessment
Insurance & Payment Guidance.
PrEP Education
DID YOU KNOW?
When taken consistently, PrEP has been shown to reduce the risk of HIV infection in people who are at high risk by more than 90%.
Your risk of getting HIV from sex can be even lower if you combine PrEP with condoms and other prevention methods.
For more information about PrEP and prevention services please contact our Lead Prevention Specialist Keith Hughes at khughes@miunified.org
WWW.MIUNIFIED.ORG

9 Seemingly Cheaper Travel 'Hacks' That Could Be Robbing You Blind

BY MIKEY ROX

Cutting costs on travel can be a boon for your vacay budget, but there's a dark side to some of those "discounts."

1. Flying budget airlines

Travel discounts apps and sites may populate your air travel search with lower-cost, no-frills lines like Spirit or Norwegian, but what you're saving on the front end could cost you even more on the back end. Unlike slightly higher-priced traditional airlines, "budget" carriers charge for everything, from carry-on bags (and the fee is WAY more than traditional airlines) to food and water (yes, you have to buy your own water on Spirit), so if you don't plan accordingly, you can end up spending a fortune to get there in a seat that's been consciously designed to be less comfortable.

And that's assuming you get there…

I booked a flight to Paris from Dublin on Ryanair many years ago and the airline canceled the flight, ruined our New Year's Eve, stranded us in the airport (we slept on the floor), only to send us to London a day later without so much as a sorry or a flight voucher.

2. Clearing your "cookies" to game the system

One misconception is that when you're searching online for flights that you need to clear your search browser history before evaluating flights as the airlines have algorithms that will automatically increase flight prices if you continue searching for flights to the same destination. This may be counterintuitive as some airlines will reduce a flight price in the hope of securing your booking. Very often airlines will offer reduce rates to frequent flyers so browsing for flights in incognito mode could actually cost you money.

3. Being flexible with your flight time and duration to save money

You can save a lot of money by choosing to fly at an inconvenient time or booking a flight with a long layover. But at what cost to your vacation?

"Oftentimes, it pays to spend more on a flight if it means you'll get to your destination faster or at a better time," says Calvin Iverson, travel expert at TravelPirates. "If you're spending 10 hours doing nothing at an airport during a layover or arriving in your destination at three in the morning, are you really having a good vacation?"

Or you can do what I do – book the longest layover possible in a place you've never been. I took a 16-hour layover in Iceland from London about 15 years ago – because when was I ever going to go to Iceland – and I loved it so much, I've returned twice. It was the best part of my vacation by far.

4. Prebooking a vacation package deal before you leave

It's important to understand when booking a vacay package that you're not booking direct with the providers themselves and you will pay an inflated price to the booking agent as they need to make a margin too.

"The other inherent problem with 'vacation package deals' is that you will often end up with inconvenient travel times, poor rooms, and less than ideal rental cars," adds Patricia Russell, a certified financial planner (CFP) and founder of the personal finance blog FinanceMarvel. "You will end up overpaying for each service and then receive a subpar service from each provider. You're much better to book directly with each provider as they will generally match the rate from the 'vacation package' broker anyway."

5. Booking a hotel outside of the city

It's true that hotels farther from the city center or the airport are often less expensive than hotels closer to the action. "But before you book one of those hotels for the low price," says Iverson, "look into how you plan to get from the hotel to the city center. Sometimes public transportation isn't easy or inexpensive, and you end up paying more than you would have paid for a stay at a more conveniently located hotel."

6. Saving money by booking a bus or train instead of a flight

Sometimes you can get from point A to point B much cheaper by bus or train instead of a flight. But time is worth money too – are you turning one of your hard-earned vacation days into a travel day?

7. Being flexible with your flight dates to save money

Most people know that one of the easiest ways to save money on your vacation is to change your departure or return date. But before you adjust your dates to save $100 off your flights, don't forget to check your hotel's rates for your updated dates – hotel rates can change dramatically from day to day, and you could actually end up saving money by choosing the more expensive flight if your hotel ends up being cheaper for those days.

8. Signing up for travel credit cards

Travel credit cards offer free points, miles and other rewards to get you to sign up. While these signup bonuses can be very generous, it's easy to forget why they are so generous. These bonuses are so enticing because, on average, the company will make more money off of interest it charges. This makes it extremely lucrative for them to give out so many bonuses. If you aren't responsible with a credit card, no matter what the signup bonuses are, you can easily end up paying much more than your signup bonuses and easily end up in debt and even damaging your credit score if you aren't careful.

9. Waiting for prices to drop

Waiting for the price of a flight, cruise, rental, hotel or anything related to travel can cost you more if the prices increase.

"For example, if you wait and the price goes up, you can't go back and book at a cheaper price," says personal finance expert Dustyn Ferguson, founder of the money-saving blog Dime Will Tell. "However, if you book as soon as possible and the price drops later, you can usually contact the company for a price match to teir new offer."

Mikey Rox is an award-winning journalist. Connect with Mikey on Instagram @ mikeyrox.

CORKTOWN
HEALTH CENTER

Michigan's first medical home focused on the needs of the LGBTQ Community.

Primary Care - Behavioral Health Services – HIV Care
Breast/Cervical Cancer Screening
Hormone Therapy – Insurance Navigation
Fully integrated PrEP Services and more!

(313) 832-3300
www.corktownhealth.org

I Stay Ready. I Take
PrEP

PrEP is a pill that can prevent HIV if taken every day. Women are protected after 21 days; men after 7 days.

Who takes PrEP? Anyone that wants to protect themselves from HIV.

To see if PrEP is right for you, visit Detroit's STD & HIV Clinic at 50 E. Canfield, Detroit, MI 48201 or call 313-577-9100.

CITY OF DETROIT Health Department

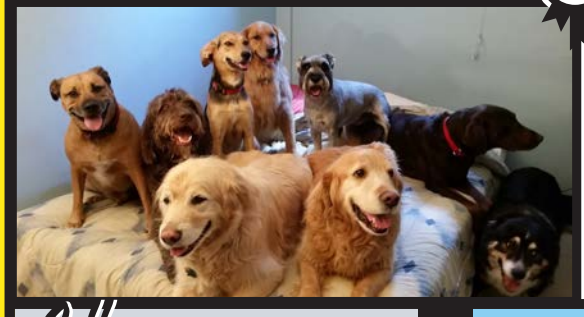
CAGE FREE 24 / 7 HAPPY HOUNDS
BOARDING IN COMFORT Day & Overnight Care!

FOR DOGS

WHO DON'T LIKE TO BE TREATED LIKE ANIMALS

GROOMING pet care extraordinaire BOARDING

A SECOND HOME FOR YOUR FURRY FRIEND 1 ACCOMMODATIONS



Happy Hounds®
Dog Day Care & Lodging
24/HR SUPERVISION

Call (734) 459-3647 or visit www.HappyHoundsDayCare.com
673 S. Main, Plymouth, Michigan

FERNDALE

FERNDALE, MICHIGAN – ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER

Department: City Manager
Location: Ferndale City Hall
Salary Range: $90,515 - $113,040
FLSA: Exempt
Employment Type: Full-time

The City of Ferndale is adding to our leadership team. We are now hiring for the position of Assistant City Manager. We are looking for a natural leader who is a strategic, forward-thinking individual, with experience in change management, organizational strategy, and has a passion for public service. A Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university with major course work in business or public administration is required. A Master of Public Administration degree from an NASPAA accredited program is preferred.

Salary Range is $90,515-$113,040 commensurate with experience. Visit https://www.ferndalemi.gov/jobs for more information and to apply.

THIS IS A SAFER PLACE

Dr. Paul Benson's
Be Well Medical Center

We are committed to provide quality health care and to serve our patients without regard to race, nationality, ethnicity, gender, religion, political preferences, or sexual orientation.

It is our intention not to discriminate, be judgmental, or have bias towards anyone. These are not simply published words, but are practices we strive and train for to do our best each and every day. We must all be respectful and put our commonalities first. Our priority is your good health.

We are here to help you and want each and every one of our patrons to feel comfortable in our patient-centered medical home. It is the essence of equality that defines who we are. Please join us in this endeavor.

1964 Eleven Mile Rd, Berkley, MI 40872
(248) 544-9300
doctorbewell.com

Primary Care • HIV Rapid initiation of Therapy • PrEP • Hormone Affirming Therapy

Most Experienced and Knowledgeable
Established in 1980 as the first Primary Care Medical Clinic in the Detroit area specializing in our LGBTQ community.

Board Certified in Family Practice & Designated Patient-Centered Medical Home
by Blue Cross Blue Shield as a Center of Excellence.

We're a Recipient of the Peter M. Fox Excellence in HIV Credentialing Award from the American Academy of HIV Medicine. Also, Dr. Benson was one of the first physicians credentialed and has maintained the AAHIV-S specialist designation since.

Certified Clinical Research Professional by the Society of Clinical Research Associates. A Principle Investigator in Clinical Trials since 1989 providing early access to life-saving HIV Medications.

Extensive Network of Sensitive Specialists
with an ongoing relationship to refer as necessary.

There is a difference. We're a patient-friendly Private Practice small enough to individualize care by a staff that knows you and large enough to manage all of your Primary Care Needs.

- HIV Prevention (PrEP), Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP), STI testing & treatment
- **Hormone Affirming Therapy for HIV positive and negative** transgender individuals
- Evening Clinic Hours Monday-Thursday, most Saturdays, and Same Day Appointments
- Full-time Patient Navigator/Advocate Social Worker on site
- Most Insurances accepted
- Ryan White Provider
- Medcart Pharmacy on Premises
- Group Medical Appointments (available soon!)
- Tele-Medical Visits (available soon!)

Dr. Benson is an Associate Professor at Michigan State University providing training to our next generation of physicians.

He leads our team of professional and talented Providers:

Dr. Paul Benson, D.O.

Caleb Youngblood, PA-C, AAHIV-S

Mark Rosen, PA-C

Leon Bullough, NP-F

Keyuna Nance, MSW